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THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2018

Kenfig Cadets march in RAF100 parade
SEE PAGE 9

Bryncethin housing plan approved
SEE PAGE 4

Council mulls plans to end 'enormous' subsidies for sports pitches

SPORTS clubs and players in Bridgend county will have to pay four or five times more than they do now to use outdoor sports fields and pavilions – or they will lose them – under new cost-cutting plans by the local authority.

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) says it can no longer afford to look after facilities such as rugby pitches, football pitches and cricket pitches and will be forced to close them unless organisations take them off their hands under community asset transfers (CAT) – or start paying much more to use them.

Children's play areas are also under threat, and bowling greens.

The council says the charges currently applied on outdoor playing fields only make up 20 to 25 per cent of what it actually costs to provide and maintain the facilities.

In 2017/18 the total income received from charges was £93,000 and the total expenditure was £452,000.

The council hopes the change of policy will prompt sports clubs to "take responsibility" for the facilities through asset transfers.

Communities director Mark Shephard said up until now "enormous" council subsidies had acted as a disincentive to clubs taking on asset transfers.

Presenting the plans before councillors at a scrutiny committee meeting on Wednesday, September 5, he said the communities directorate needed to "change the culture" of the last 40 to 50 years in order to save £500k over the next couple of years.

He said: "In an ideal world this is not something we would want to do.

"But if we do nothing, these facilities are going to close themselves.

"Following seven years' of budget cuts, frankly, there's very few places to go where we can make further savings.

"We believe this is the best option to try and preserve the facilities – there is a logic too in that those who use them the most take on responsibility for them."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Andy's Man Club provides a warm welcome in time of need

ANDY'S Man Club, Bridgend' has regular local meetings, thanks to the support of Porthcawl RFC.

Andy's Man Club is a national cause started to tackle male suicide.

Peter Gillingham, who helps to run meetings at the rugby club, said: "Meetings are held at the club every Monday from 7pm to 9pm. We relocated from the original venue at the Brewery Field just over a year ago.

"The club is part of a national organisation started after Andy Roberts died by suicide in West Yorkshire in 2016.

"It was set up by his mum and brother-in-law – hence the name. There are now many groups around the whole of the UK."

The Bridgend group started in January 2017. It was originally run by Alun Maddock and is now run by Peter, who explained: "It's a simple concept and has been well accepted across the country.

"The club is a relaxed environment where men can come and chat about any problems they may have. We discuss issues and share advice and coping strategies.

"People often say just sitting there and realising others have gone through similar experiences makes all the difference.

"The club is a free service run by a facilitator who asks questions set by the organisation's head office each week to get the conversation started.

"We cover everything including bad domestic situations, loneliness, problems with finances, addictions, anxiety and depression.

"People can talk in confidence about absolutely anything they want to. We can offer a bit of advice and solidarity and maybe direct them to other organisations that can help a little further.

"Talking at a club like this can be more accessible than a more clinical route through their GP. We reduce the stigma of people not feeling great."

The club is open to any man aged over 18 years of age.

Peter Gillingham says if there are men who need help and support with difficult issues they will be welcomed at 'Andy's Man Club, Bridgend' which now meets at Porthcawl RFC.

Prisoner gets extra jail time for mobile phone offence – read the full story on page 6

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Friends of the Wilderness group tackles lake pollution

ON September 4 at Griffin Park Hall, Porthcawl, a meeting was held to formulate a committee for 'Friends of the Wilderness.'

The Friends have been set up in response to recent environmental issues at the lake, which caused a number of fish to die.

The lake and the environment are enjoyed by fisherman, allotment holders, the local community and visitors to its natural beauty, flora and fauna. The Friends have set objectives to address and improve the environment and facilities of the area which are;

1. Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Wilderness Lake.

2. Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of The Wilderness lake by the public.

3. Seek to foster the economic and social well-being of The Wilderness and surrounding communities within Porthcawl.

The group is in its infancy and from the inaugural meeting, numerous suggestions have been put forward to be developed.

There are numerous stakeholders including Porthcawl Town Council, Bridgend County Borough Council, Natural Resources Wales, Allotment Society, Porthcawl Angling Club and the community who will be contacted to work with the Friends.

Some of the work is extensive and will require comprehensive advice and guidance.The Friends are seeking any environmentalists, interested groups and individual volunteers who can advise the group.

If you can assist, visit the 'Friends of the Wilderness' Facebook page and add your name to the list of volunteers.

Teignmouth hosts local choir

TEIGNMOUTH was the destination for Cor Meibion Maesteg on September 8.

This was the fourth visit by the choir and showed the audience the singing of a Welsh male voice choir.

Musical director Huw Morgan arranged a variable programme including traditional Welsh favourites 'Gwahoddiad' and 'Llanfair', and songs from the shows.

Laura Deenik accompanied the choir with her usual expertise and showed how fortunate the choir are to have such a talent at the piano.

The audience gave the choir a wonderful reception, as did the ladies afterwards with a fabulous buffet and a barrel of local beer for the choristers to enjoy.

KPC's Macmillan coffee morning

ON Thursday, September 20 KPC Youth & Community (next to Pil Primary) are holding a coffee morning from 9am – 10.30am in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief.

We will be joined at 9.30am by the choir from Pil Primary School, followed by Fun Bingo and a raffle.

Admission is £1 and cake will be on sale. Please spread the word to friends and family and help us make this event a great success for Macmillan. Also please come along and support the children from Pil Primary School. Any queries, call 01656 749219/745399.

The winning team were the Chatterton Shunters.

Bridgend Quiz League gears up for new season

FOR Bridgend Quiz League's upcoming season starting on October 1, the following teams will be taking part:

Cabo Roche, Bridgend; Chatterton Shunters, Pencoed; Crown Inn, Maesteg; Five Bells A, Bridgend; Five Bells B, Bridgend; Laleston Inn A, Laleston; Laleston Inn B, Laleston; Mackworth Arms, Laleston; Oddfellows Arms, Bettws; Penybont AFC Nomads, Bridgend; Pheasant Gamekeepers, Pen-y-Fai; Prince of Wales, Coychurch; Six Bells Clangers, Coity; Tondu Railway Club, Tondu; TyRisha Arms, Pen-y-Cae.

The annual Muriel Williams Cup competition, held on September 3 at Tondu Railway Club, was a very close run affair.

Chatterton Shunters took the Cup with a score of 78, and the runners-up were the Laleston Dipsos, a mere one point behind on 77, with Penybont AFC Nomads in third place with 76.

SK

'M4 congestion will impede growth in South Wales'

Readers' Letter

BRIDGEND councillor Carolyn Webster is concerned that congestion on the M4, particularly around the Brynglas Tunnels in Newport, will have a negative effect on any future investment plans in the Bridgend area.

Frankly, I'm sure she is right and that the same can be said for the whole of south Wales.

In the 27 years since the original plan to build the Newport M4 bypass south of the current M4 was announced in 1991, anyone who has had the misfortune use the M4 regularly between junctions 23 and 28 will understand exactly where Cllr Webster is coming from. There is no such thing as 'rush hour' delays because the problems regularly occur 24/7.

Obviously, it is not only Welsh residents affected by this problem. The sheer waste of life, sitting in slow/standstill traffic must affect the view of Wales of those poor people struggling to get to south Wales/return home from whatever event they attend in south Wales.

As Cllr Webster points out, we now await the report from the Public Inquiry (which, I understand, has cost us £11M+) into whether the 'right' route has been chosen.

I may be missing something here, but although I accept that the black route has been tweaked a few times, its general trajectory is largely as originally announced 27 years ago. Consequently, I am at a complete and utter loss to understand why, when the preparatory work including various investigations (geological, ecological, archaeological et al) were set to be completed by the planned start of construction in March 2018, it was decided that a Public Inquiry was necessary.

I repeat, the decision was made 27 years ago. This inquiry has already caused the proposed start date (assuming the inquiry confirms the current route) to be put back 12 months. In the event that the decision is made to abandon the 'black' route altogether, however, just when will it be possible to conclude all the preparatory legislation, surveys, etc, to enable the alternative route be started? I'm pretty sure it will not be next Spring.

Personally, I simply cannot accept that anyone who insisted that an inquiry was necessary at such a late stage in the project had the best interests of Wales, the Welsh people or the Welsh economy at heart.

As someone greatly affected by this project, I wasn't actually too worried when the route was first announced in 1991, mainly because I was 46 and at that age you think you'll live forever. At the time I just thought I'd cope with the building of it and then return to normal. Now, of course, I'm 73 and for health reasons it is imperative that I move as soon as possible to enable me to get on with whatever quality time I may now have left.

Perhaps Cllr Webster and any other similarly concerned people should consider signing the petition on the following website in support of getting on with the job of building the M4 bypass which was fully considered and agreed 27 years ago by our elected representatives.

Eileen Pohl, Newport.

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

Transfer of health services approved

THE proposal for health services in Bridgend to come under Cwm Taf University Health Board's control from next April have been agreed.

At a special meeting on Thursday, August 30, Cwm Taf's health board approved the transfer list of 137 services from April next year when the Bridgend area is moved into the health board from Abertawe Bro Morgannwg (ABMU).

The Welsh Government health secretary Vaughan Gething announced in June that Bridgend County Borough would be served by Cwm Taf from April 1, 2018.

A joint transition board made up of representatives of both health boards has been set up to oversee the transfer.

The list of services is divided into three categories including:

Services commissioned and provided by Cwm Taf including paediatrics, care for the elderly, intensive care, midwifery, general medicine, physiotherapy and mental health services;

Services commissioned and provided by Cwm Taf but with service level agreements (SLAs) with ABMU to keep providing services in some areas including stroke services, diagnostic services, neonatal unit, endoscopy and ophthalmology;

Services to be commissioned by Cwm Taf but provided by ABMU, including neurology.

Chief executive of Cwm Taf, Allison Williams, said that the service transfer is the first critical decision to be made and that the matter has come before a special board meeting for the consultation to start in September.

Ms Williams said the staff transfer cannot happen until the service transfer is completed and that some service transfers are easier to deal with than others.

She said: "Patients should continue to be able to access services wherever they choose and where they do now. We want to make sure patient services are not disrupted in any way."

Ms Williams confirmed that any key appointments made would be discussed with both health boards before a decision is made.

Professor Marcus Longley, the chairman of Cwm Taf, congratulated everyone who had been involved in the transfer of services. He said: "To still be on track and to have reached an agreement without the need to bring in anyone else is a huge testament to those involved", adding that progress had so far been encouraging.

Anthony Lewis, Local Democracy Reporter

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL SEPTEMBER 20)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
13 Thur	09.42	10.2	21.59	10.0
14 Fri	10.19	9.8	22.39	9.6
15 Sat	10.57	9.2	23.15	8.9
16 Sun	11.36	8.5	23.57	8.2
17 Mon			12.25	7.9
18 Tues	00.53	7.6	13.38	7.5
19 Wed	02.22	7.3	15.13	7.3
20 Thur	03.56	7.5	16.31	7.8

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Reader's anger as communal bins left overflowing in Sarn

'FILTH!' That is how GEM reader Darren Punter – who submitted this photograph – described this site near his home on Jubilee Crescent in Sarn.

The communal bin area, which fronts directly onto the road, serves around 25 or so properties on an estate managed by Valleys to Coast Housing (V2C).

Mr Punter – a single father of two, and a warehouse manager – says he and fellow residents are at their wits end.

"This has been going on for months, and I am not the only person to have made complaints to V2C about it," he began.

"Week in, week out, the day the rubbish is collected varies."

Refuse collection within Bridgend county borough is the responsibility of the borough council (BCBC), which has contracted Kier to manage it.

Worse, he says, than the haphazard collection, is that not all of the rubbish – furniture and white goods are also often dumped – belongs to Jubilee Crescent residents.

"The bins front directly onto the road, and many times during the day and night, cars pull up, drop their rubbish, and drive off.

"A letter fell out of a bag once, and the address was in Ogmore Vale. People are coming to our community to dump their rubbish."

Mr Punter noted that there is another communal bin area, which does is not directly on the road, and has not the same problem.

"If you look closely in the photo, you can see there is a sign saying 'No fly-tipping', and that offenders can be prosecuted. Has anyone? I doubt it."

A houseproud father, Mr Punter is pleased, however, that the record-breaking hot spell is over.

"I have lived right next to these bins since March.

"The stench has been horrific, it attracts rats and clouds of flies. I, and my neighbours, couldn't have our windows open during the summer not only because of the smell, but also because of the flies.

"This site – it's more like a tip, really – is also right next to the children's play area.

"I want my children to go out and play, as do other parents around here, but we're worried about rats, dogs or foxes that are attracted to this, and what diseases their mess may contain."

Mr Punter said he and other residents have approached V2C with suggestions, not just complaints.

"The area could be caged off and locked, and only residents could have a key or access to PIN to unlock the gates. This might not end the problem, but it could reduce it."

The GEM contacted V2C, BCBC, Kier, and the local borough councillor for the Sarn ward.

We asked how long had they known about this problem, how many people had complained, what action had been taken, and what action was proposed.

Only BCBC and V2C responded.

A spokesperson for the council said that it was informed by Kier, after it received calls, and that the rubbish was removed the following day (September 6).

The spokesperson added: "BCBC has liaised with V2C and has sent enforcement officers into the area to investigate further and speak to local residents."

The V2C spokesperson said: "V2C is working in partnership with BCBC and Kier to solve rubbish collection problems.

"BCBC is looking at introducing enforcement notices to be served to prevent those who are caught fly tipping.

"V2C will also work with the community to identify what further improvements can be made to ensure we have thriving communities."

GEM REPORTER

The site was cleared the day The GEM asked V2C, Kier, the local councillor, and BCBC for comment.

ADVERTORIAL

Jewellers are set to retire

MR and Mrs Johnson of Johnsons The Goldsmiths based in Pontyclun have decided to retire after 34 years in the jewellery business.

They started in 1984 with their first shop in Treorchy followed this three years later with another in Tonypandy.

Then, 18 years ago, they added another branch in Cowbridge and were there for 15 years before relocating to Pontyclun.

Now slowing down to retirement, they have closed all branches and have spent the last three years successfully trading in Pontyclun.

Raymond and Yvonne said that they love it in Pontyclun but time has come to retire.

"As we are retiring and the shop closing, there are huge sales at the moment with big discounts on all stock - now is the time for our customers to get their Christmas presents early," said Ray, with many items having 50 per cent off .

"We hope to be finished by October or November," said Yvonne, "and spend Christmas Eve with the family this year.

"We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our customers for their valued support over all these years," she added.

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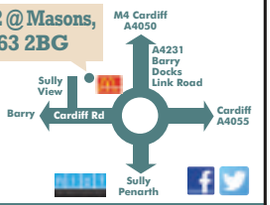

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St Bride's Major hosts a Vale of Glamorgan ploughing match as traditions are kept alive

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TRADITION is an important part of all of our lives, and farmers in the Vale are happy to keep some alive.

Last weekend's ploughing match at St Bride's Major was a case in point, as Shire horses and tractors (new and old) were on show.

A report on this event will be in next week's GEM.

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

Quiz League teasers...

HERE are this week's teasers from the Bridgend Quiz League:

1. What is the only sea on Earth that has no coastline?

2. Which tennis player recently accused a tennis umpire of sexism?

3. Which Jubilee did the Queen celebrate in 1977?

SK

Answers:
1. The Sargasso Sea (it is a mass of seaweed).
2. Serena Williams.
3. Silver Jubilee.

New housing development for nine homes is set for Bryncethin

PLANS for up to nine homes in Bryncethin have been approved.

The outline planning application for land off Ffordd Leyshon went before councillors on August 30.

The plans by Robert Vicker of Ty Maen have prompted a number of objections over the loss of green space and the site being outside of the settlement boundary.

Bridgend Ramblers objected on the basis that the 'right of way' will be obstructed by the proposed development.

Two years ago, plans for up to 15 homes on the same site were approved, but the landowner hit difficulties when it became apparent part of the access road for three of the homes was in the ownership of a third party.

According to an officer's report on the plans, a resolution has not been found, prompting the revised application.

In recommending the plans for approval, officers said that while public access along the right of way had encouraged recreational uses across the green space, the land was privately owned and was not offered the formal protection of an area of open space.

Councillors voted in favour of the plans, subject to conditions.

These include 20 per cent of 'affordable homes' being included and a financial 'contribution' being made toward the provision of a central pedestrian refuge on the A4061, near the junction with Daleside.

Liz Bradfield,
Local Democracy Reporter

Working for MND – Bridgend fundraiser takes a look back over last six years

The Pen Y Fan group.

The Llandudno group.

IN August, a team of 38 people from Bridgend and surrounding areas took on the North2South4MND challenge, *reports Bridgend-based fundraiser Justin Hostettler-Davies*.

The challenge was to cycle from Llandudno, North Wales back home to Bridgend, South Wales (approx 250 miles of cycling) but also climbing the three Welsh Peaks along the route (Snowdon, Cadair Idris and Penyfan). This was all done in just four days over the bank holiday weekend.

To date the team have managed to raise over £6,500 but more importantly, help raise awareness of Motor Neurone Disease.

There is still an opportunity for people to donate via *www.justgiving.com/north2south4mnd*

Justin said: "I first got involved with fundraising for the MNDA when a lifelong friend of mine was diagnosed with the disease. He passed in 2013, aged just 39, after suffering for three years.

"I did not know what MND was prior to this and found it disappointing that many others were also oblivious to the disease and the effects it has on sufferers and their families.

"I made it my mission to try and raise awareness of the disease. The hope was that with this awareness and funds being raised, then areas such as research would benefit and contribute to the hope that one day, a cure can be sought.

"So, I decided to walk the Wales Coastal Path from Prestatyn to Porthcawl – which took 30 days to complete, walking an average of 20 miles a day. This grabbed the attention of social media and from there I built upon it by organising and completing various other challenges each summer and the '4MND' brand was born."

Justin Hosttetter-Davies (above) emphasises the importance of teamwork in any fundraising effort.

Fundraising to date : 2012 – London Marathon - £3,000; 2013 – I walked solo around the Wales Coastal path - £14,100.

2014 – Cycled Lands' End to John O Groats - £16,200 (nine participants).

2015 – Climb4MND – 5 Highest Peaks in the UK and Ireland over three days - £30,000 (over 50 of us).

2016 – Kayak4MND – kayaked across the three largest lakes in the UK - £20,000 (over 20 of us).

2017 – Stadium2Stadium4MND – walked 100km in 24 hours from Llanelli to Newport – £14,000 (over 40 of us).

"And, as mentioned above, this year I organised North2South4MND (£6200 +)."

Justin continued: "I must stress, that although this started off as a solo mission to walk around the country, over the years I have managed to persuade a lot of friends and supporters to join me on my crusade. And now the '4MND' team continues to grow each year.

"Since 2013 we have raised over £100,000. Without this 'army' of fundraisers and fellow crazies by my side, none of these challenges would have been possible.

"Coming up with ideas to fundraise and raising sponsorship each year can become an arduous task, my advice would be to put yourselves out of your comfort zone!

"I was (and am still) not a cyclist – or a kayaker – I have never enjoyed cycling – but I wanted to do something that captured an audience and allowed me to push myself to the limit.

"People seem willing to support and sponsor when they can see you're doing something 'away from the norm'.

"The Motor Neurone Disease Association is the only national charity in England, Wales and Northern Ireland focused on MND care, research and campaigning.

"It is a membership organisation with nearly 8,000 members forming a powerful national and local network that provides information and support alongside fighting for improved services."

More information on the MNDA can be found at www.mndassociation.org

Regional AM meets auto repair employees

REGIONAL AM Suzy Davies donned overalls during her visit to an award-winning auto repair business in Bridgend where half the staff are women.

Welsh Conservative Suzy was shown how to remove a brake calliper by Hayley Pells, who runs Avia Autos on Bridgend Industrial Estate, and qualified mechanic Rebecca Watt.

Suzy was visiting the company after Hayley was a finalist in the Chwarae Teg Leadership Award beating a field of 400 to get to the final five.

Hayley was brought up locally and after a stint in the RAF as an air cartographer, returned to Bridgend where she joined her father Andy Murdoch in his sports car racing business.

She changed the business to include more general car repairs although her husband Grahame builds aluminium bodies for mainly pre-war sports cars in his own premises at Brackla.

Suzy said: "I met someone truly inspirational today. After leaving the RAF following a serious car accident, Hayley has brought all her talents and vision to a family business which has excelled under her leadership.

"The fact that half the staff are women should no longer be unusual – but it is. The fact that this business is run by a woman should no longer be unusual – but it is.

"Always looking forward, Hayley should be proud of her investment in staff and apprentices, their training, their choices and their wellbeing. This is what successful businesses look like."

Hayley has also been involved with Bridgend College in mentoring young people as part of a three year enterprise initiative. She provided a start-up unit at her garage for a catering business which has now moved on to larger premises. Her next venture will be mentoring someone who teaches ballet.

Who's going to take the tallest sunflower title for 2018?

It's that time of year again – when gardeners and allotment holders look at their sunflowers and say: "Hey, that's pretty damn good!" Robert Minhinnick is pictured at his allotment in Newton, Porthcawl, with his top plant. The best of the bunch and lord of all it surveys. Is there a taller one in Bridgend county borough? Please bear in mind that Robert is 6 foot 10 – and he is standing on a box! (Only joking folks!)

Bake sale at St Illtyd's

ON Sunday, September 23 after Mass, there will be a bake sale at St Illtyd's Church, Newcastle, in Bridgend.

Parish priest Father David Lloyd said: "Whether you're very Mary Berry, a little like Nigella Lawson, or more like James Martin, bring along your home-made cakes, pies, biscuits, jams, bread, tarts, and other treats to sell during refreshments after Mass."

Grade II* listed St Illtyd's Church is on Newcastle Hill, and the postcode is CF31 4EZ. Mass is at 10.30am and ends around 11.30am.

Fairtrade shop's pop up cafe is back

THE Green Room pop up cafe returns Saturday, September 15, 11am to 4pm above SUSSED, James Street, Porthcawl.

It's a monthly meeting place for anyone interested in green issues, ethical trading and sustainability, and offers a varied homemade range of savouries, cakes and drinks – all at reasonable prices.

Bakers aim to use mainly Fairtrade and local ingredients offering both savoury and sweet dishes for coffee, lunch and tea.

Vegetarian and some vegan choices are also available. Funds go to our local charity Sustainable Wales.

For more information, check the charity's website.

Resurfacing work, and road closures, in Bridgend

MORE of Bridgend county borough's most well-used roads will be resurfaced over the next couple of months as part of a £1.5 million highways upgrade.

Work is already underway in Ffordd yr Eglwys, Cornelly, while the resurfacing work will move to the A4061 Aber Road / Ogwy Street in Nantymoel in early October, followed by the A4093 Graig Terrace in Blackmill.

All of those roads will remain open to vehicles while the work is carried out.

Some other resurfacing work will involve temporary road closures.

In Bridgend, a section of the A48 Cowbridge Road will be closed overnight between the York Road junction for Bridgend industrial estate and the A48/A473 roundabout (Parc Plaza) between midnight and 6am from September 17 to October 1.

A stretch of the A48 between the A48/A473 roundabout (by Parc Plaza) and the junction with the Waterton industrial estate road (by Bridgend Ford dealership) will also be closed for resurfacing during the same dates and times.

There will also be a temporary road closure along the B4265 Ewenny Road from the northern boundary of number 93 Ewenny Road to the A48 Ewenny roundabout between 7pm and midnight from September 30 to October 11. Temporary diversions will be in place.

Some limited temporary closures will also be required for the resurfacing of Evanstown's Abercerdin Road before the end of October.

Several other key routes in Bridgend county borough have already been resurfaced during the past couple of months, including the B4181 Coychurch Road near Brackla, the top of the A4061 Bwlch mountain, Brocastle Avenue on the Waterton Industrial Estate and the Stormy Lane junction on the A48.

The B4281 through Cefn Cribwr will be completed on September 16, with the works being concluded by 8pm following representations from local residents and discussions with regulatory services who have provided advice regarding working times.

Bridgend prisoner gets extra jail time for mobile phone offence

SECURITY officers at Bridgend's Parc Prison had a shock when they carried out a strip search on an inmate who was serving a sentence for manslaughter, *writes AJ SICLUNA*.

Between his buttocks, said prosecutor David Pugh at Cardiff Crown Court, was a mobile phone, an item banned in the prison.

Talos Miller, 39, had admitted before Cardiff Magistrates possessing the phone and a SIM card and had been committed for the crown court to sentence.

Possession of such phones in a prison has become a significant problem, said Mr Pugh.

He said that on March 31, a special security team with phone detectors went to Miller's cell where a SIM card fell out of a trouser pocket.

"They suspected he had something else hidden. He was uncooperative but they found between the cheeks of his buttocks, the mobile phone".

Mr Pugh said it was clear that it was not used for any criminal activity.

Miller later said he used it to contact his mother in Manchester.

It was revealed that in the 12 months up to March this year, there were 154 incidents when mobile phones were discovered in Parc Prison.

The court heard that Miller had convictions for 65 offences, including robbery and assault.

He is currently serving an indeterminate sentence for manslaughter and this involved Miller attacking a man in a pub, who later died of a brain injury.

His counsel, David Webb, said: "He made full admissions and at no time tried to pull the wool over anybody's eyes, and the crown accept the phone was not used for any illegal activity."

Judge Jeremy Jenkins jailed him for eight months, to run consecutively to his present sentence.

The judge told him: "Possession of these items is most serious."

Fees for use of sports pitches to rise?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He added: "The provision at the moment is incredibly cheap – an adult sports pitch is about £55 and if you divide that by 15 rugby players or more, as there are often subs, then you're talking about £3 per individual.

"This is a genuine attempt to find a way of working with clubs and preserve the facilities we have at the moment.

"If there's no interest in running the facility and none of the preferred options come about there will still be access, in that it will be public open space, but the facilities won't be maintained and in terms of use for formal sports provision, it won't be available for that purpose.

"There is a doomsday scenario here."

He said other local authorities such as the Vale of Glamorgan, Neath Port Talbot and Carmarthenshire were making similar changes.

Councillors raised concerns over the complexity of applying for a CAT transfer saying many sports clubs are run by volunteers with limited financial backgrounds and the whole process frightens them.

Mr Shephard said there were plans to simplify the process and there would be a package of support for interested organisations.

He told councillors in order to achieve the full £500k it would also be necessary to review children's play areas with CAT transfer opportunities for town and community councils, adding that ultimately the council had to make savings and it would close play areas if alternative options were not found.

Councillors criticised the lack of detail in the report on the consultation, saying organisations needed to know more before committing to CAT transfers but Mr Shephard said it was a 'conceptual' consultation and to go into further detail would mean a delay of the consultation, leaving less time for clubs and organisations to prepare.

He said: "We deliberately haven't gone into issues on this scale, it's about trying to explain to users that we're going to have to change the way in which they pay, or manage, these facilities."

Cllr Nicole Burnett said she was concerned about the fragmentation of facilities to individual organisations and the loss of local authority control.

She said: "We are forcing a dedicated voluntary sector with ageing volunteers to commercialise themselves to a point way beyond their capacity, they just want to play sport.

"The plan is to flog off our assets to numerous organisations which are completely unprepared and don't have the capacity or professionalism to do it.

"There will be some shining examples and some terrible failures."

"We need a separate third sector organisation that doesn't exist yet in order to facilitate this."

Cllr Roz Stirman said some playing fields were never used and recommended the council find out which were not to eliminate them and focus on the ones which were used.

Cllr Lyn Walters said it was "very reasonable" to charge sports clubs more saying the subsidies were "too generous" at the moment.

She said: "We have created this problem over the last 40 to 50 years and now we have to make hard decisions and sports clubs are going to have to step up and pay for these facilities."

Cabinet member for communities Richard Young admitted the route being taken was "emotional".

He said: "There aren't any easy answers with regard to the way forward.

"In order to meet increasing budget cuts there is no room to wriggle in any future years – the director rightly says if we don't do something like this now then come 2022/23 we won't have any choice but to close them."

The council plans to go out to public consultation following a cabinet meeting on September 18.

Mr Shephard said the council would be writing to every current user of the facilities as well as sport governing bodies such as the Welsh Rugby Union, and town and community councils.

A report will then go before the scrutiny committee and cabinet in the first half of 2019.

These are the park pavilions, playing fields and outdoor sports facilities currently provided by BCBC: Aberfields Playing Fields, Ogmore Vale; Bettws Playing Fields; Blaengarw Cricket, Blaengarw; Blandy Park Playing Fields, Pontycymmer; Bryncethin Rugby Playing Fields, Bryncethin; Cae Gof Playing Fields, Cefn Cribwr; Caerau AFC; Caerau Welfare Park, Caerau; Coychurch Playing Fields; Croft Goch Playing Fields, Kenfig Hill; Cwm Garw Playing Fields, Blaengarw; Evanstown Welfare Park, Evanstown; Garth Park, Garth; Great Western Avenue Playing Fields, Bridgend; Heol-y-Cyw Playing Fields; Hermon Road/Metcalf Street Playing Field, Caerau; Lawrence Park Playing Fields, Pontycymer; Lewistown Playing Fields; Llangeinor Recreation Ground; Llangynwyd Playing Fields; Maesteg Welfare Park; Nantymoel RFC Playing Field; Newbridge Fields (North); Newbridge Fields (cricket), Bridgend; Newbridge Fields (South New), Bridgend; North Cornelly Playing Fields;

Ogmore Vale RFC Playing Field; Pandy Park Playing Fields, Ynysawdre; Pencoed Recreation Ground; Pwll-y-Garn Playing Fields, Blaengarw; Rest Bay Playing Fields, Porthcawl; South Parade, Maesteg; Woodlands Park, Pencoed.

Bowls Pavilions:

Caedu Park, Ogmore Vale; Cae Gof Bowls Pavilion, Cefn Cribwr; Caerau Welfare Park; Evanstown Welfare Park; Garth Park, Garth; Griffin Park, Porthcawl; Lawrence Park Playing Fields, Pontycymer; Maesteg Welfare Park Bowls Pavilion; Newbridge Fields Bowls Pavilion, Bridgend; Pencoed Bowls Pavilion; Pyle Bowling Green; Waunllwyd, Nantymoel.

Liz Bradfield, Local democracy reporter.

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'Affordable housing' plans in Brackla are back again

PLANS to build 'affordable' homes on a children's play area in Bridgend are to go before councillors again after they asked whether the need for housing outweighed the loss of recreational space.

Wales & West Housing Association want to build four two-bedroom homes on land to the west of Bryn Bragl in Brackla.

The site originally formed part of a larger scheme for 14 homes but the development was reduced to 10 homes, which then gained planning consent in July.

A condition of permission at the time involved the provision of an equipped play area which included a programme for ongoing maintenance.

But the housing association has now submitted another application to re-instate the four extra homes.

The site is currently an open space and involves an 'informal unequipped recreational space' with an all-weather multi-sports ball court.

Planning officers at Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) recommended the plans be turned down, saying they went against policies protecting open space and recreation facilities.

The officers point out that if the plans gain consent, only a small area will then be left designated for children's play and that due to its scale, shape and location, it won't be readily usable for local children, and won't provide much amenity for existing residents, the wider community and future occupiers of the affordable homes already approved.

However at a development control meeting on August 30, councillors asked whether the benefits of affordable housing outweighed the reasons for refusing it.

A council audit on children's play areas which took place last year indicated Brackla Ward had too many "unequipped informal play spaces" but not enough equipped play space.

Affordable housing has also been identified as a ministerial priority for the Welsh Government.

The plans are to come before councillors again once extra information has been gathered on whether the development justifies the loss of greenspace.

Liz Bradfield
Local democracy reporter

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF
SIROL PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR

I give notice that the following applications have been made. The application documents can be viewed during normal office hours at the Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB or on the planning page of the Council website. Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications on land use planning grounds should write to the Council at the above address by the date specified under each category of application or submit their comments online. Observations received on applications are not acknowledged. Any representations submitted will be open to public inspection and objectors/supporters may be identified on the internet. The Development Control Committee operates public speaking arrangements. If you wish to register an intent to speak at Committee (should the application not be processed under delegated powers) please indicate in your response. For more information tel: 01656 643675.

Yr wyf yn hysbysu bod y ceisiadau canlynol wedi cael eu gwneud. Gellir bwrw golwg ar ddogfennau'r ceisiadau yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol yn y Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr CF31 4WB neu ar y dudalen gynllunio ar wefan y Cyngor. Dylai unrhyw un sy'n dymuno cyflwyno sylwadau ar y ceisiadau hyn ar sail cynllunio'r defnydd o dir ysgrifennu at y Cyngor at y cyfeiriad uchod erbyn y dyddiad a nodir dan bob categori ceisiadau neu gyflwyno'i sylwadau ar-lein. Ni anfonir cydnabyddiaeth yn dilyn derbyn sylwadau ar geisiadau. Bydd unrhyw sylwadau a gyflwynir ar gael i'r cyhoedd eu harchwilio ac mae'n bosib fydd enwau gwrthwynebwyr/cefnogwyr ar gael ar y Rhyngrwyd. Mae'r Pwyllgor Rheoli Datblygu'n gweithredu trefniadau i aelodau o'r cyhoedd gael siarad. Os ydych yn dymuno nodi bwriad i siarad yn y Pwyllgor (os na fydd y cais yn cael ei brosesu dan bwerau wedi'u dirprwyo), nodwch hynny yn eich ymateb. I gael mwy o wybodaeth ffoniwch 01656 643675.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (WALES) ORDER 2012

P/18/361/FUL Change of use of ground floor of west wing to eye clinic - Ground floor west wing 31 Ffordd Yr Hen Gae Pencoed by Mr I Rahman.

The above proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

P/18/712/FUL Demolition of existing units and erect new Class B1/B2/B8 development with associated parking and servicing - Units 4-9 Kingsway Buildings Kingsway Bridgend Industrial Estate by Starburst Ltd.

RESPOND BY: 26/09/2018

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990 AFFECTING THE SETTING OF A LISTED BUILDING

P/18/711/FUL Mixed use maritime centre complex comprising main building, cafe/bistro/wine bar/micro brewery, green room offices, external areas, loading and unloading points, amphitheatre/auditorium, temporary sea cadet hut/construction office portacabins, temporary hoardings and associated works - Cosy Corner Porthcawl Harbourside Porthcawl by Credu Charity Ltd.

DEVELOPMENT IN A CONSERVATION AREA

P/18/711/FUL - see details above.

Conservation area: Porthcawl

RESPOND BY: 3/10/2018

Mark Shephard Corporate Director Communities / Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Cymunedau 13/09/2018

Cosmology Corner with Norman Lloyd

Concept of light years can be hard to grasp

A FEW weeks ago, a contestant on a popular TV quiz programme was asked this question and she was given three captioned options from which to choose her answer:

Is it a measurement of time, distance or temperature? As I recall, the lady quickly discarded option three (temperature) but pondered for some little time over the other two before finally opting for time.

Her answer was locked in and, after the usual short wait to build suspense, it was shown to be wrong. Distance was highlighted as the correct answer.

So why is a word relating to time (year) used in a measurement of distance, causing understandable confusion to quiz contestants?

Well, the stars are so far away from us that if we simply express their distances in miles and kilometres, we end up with impossibly huge numbers, so instead, astronomers speak of their distances in light-years.

Light is the fastest-moving stuff in the universe. In old money, it travels at an incredible 186,000 miles per second. That's very fast. If you could travel at the speed of light, you would be able to circle the Earth's equator nearly eight times in just one second.

The Earth's equator is almost 25,000 miles so eight times that is 200,000 miles. A light-second is defined as the distance light travels in one second, i.e. approx. 200,000 miles. The Moon is 230,000 miles away from Earth, so that's a distance of just over one light second.

Following on from this, a light-year is the distance light travels in one year. How far is that? Multiply the number of seconds in one year by the number of miles that light travels in one second, and there you have it: one light-year is very nearly six trillion miles.

The 20th century astronomer Robert Burnham devised an ingenious way to portray the distance of one light-year and of expressing the distance scale of the universe in simple, understandable terms.

He did this by relating the light-year to the distance from the Sun to the Earth. That's just about 93 million miles – a distance of eight light-minutes (if the Sun were ever to blow up or go out, we wouldn't actually know about it until eight minutes after the event).

Robert Burnham noticed that, quite by coincidence, the number of Earth-Sun distances in one light-year and the number of inches in one mile are virtually the same. There are 63,000 Earth-Sun distances in one light-year, and 63,000 inches in one mile. This wonderful coincidence enabled him to bring the light-year down to Earth.

If we think of the Earth-Sun distance as just one inch then, on this scale, a light year represents one mile. The closest star to Earth, other than the Sun, is Alpha Centauri at some 4.4 light-years away. Thinking of the Earth-Sun distance as one inch places this star at a distance of 4.4 miles. Using this same scale, here are the distances to some other rather well known heavenly objects.

Sirius: 9 miles; Vega: 25 miles; Betelgeuse, the orange star in the constellation Orion, 427 miles; the black hole at the centre of our galaxy, 27,000 miles; and Andromeda, our nearest galactic neighbour comprising hundreds of billions of stars, 2.3 million miles.

Andromeda, incidentally, is visible to the naked eye in the northern sky as a faint smudge and now is a good time to look for it. You'll need a truly dark sky and a keen eye, but you can find it by star hopping from the constellation Cassiopeia, the Queen.

Cassiopeia is very easily identified in the northeast sky at nightfall as a very distinct W shape. You'll note that one half of the W is more deeply notched than the other half.

This deeper V is like an arrow in the sky, pointing directly towards Andromeda at a distance of just over twice the length of one side of the arrowhead (notch).

If, like mine, your eyes are not what they once were, then binoculars will certainly help. If you can spot it, remember that the actual light you are seeing began its journey 2.3 million years ago.

NORMAN LLOYD

Laleston WI meet

OUR WI met on September 6 and 25 members were present.

It had been decided to have a New Year lunch in January instead of a Christmas one in December; we were also to have a trip to Cardiff on January 10 to the pantomime.

Our December meeting was to go back to the old format of a church service followed by a buffet in The Blandy Hall.

Various events of interest were pointed out to members from the county letter arranged by Glamorgan Federation. Mo Morgan then proceeded with our Harvest auction, all donations being supplied by our members.

As normal all members were very generous with their bidding and we managed to raise £105 which was added to a previous donation of £50; so £150 would be sent to Bridgend Alzheimer's Society with a request that it be spent locally.

Thanks go to all members for getting into the spirit of things to raise this amount and special thanks to Mo for conducting the auction with her usual humour.

Our meetings take place on the first Thursday of each month at 7.15pm at The Blandy Hall Laleston, please visit us.

Lord Adonis addresses local meeting

ONE of the leading anti-Brexit campaigners, Lord Andrew Adonis, visited Bridgend last month at an event organised by pro-EU group 'Bridgend for Europe'.

He is pictured with Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon, who chaired the meeting.

In the 2016 referendum, Bridgend county borough (which is made up of two constituencies, Bridgend and Ogmore) voted 54.64 per cent voted Leave, while 45.36 per cent voted Remain.

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

Merthyr Mawr music festival

In last week's report on the 'Between the Trees' music festival in Merthyr Mawr, one photograph was incorrectly captioned. Al Lewis (right) who was the last act on stage on the Sunday, was mis-identified as John Nicholas (far right). Apologies to both!

ABOVE: Al Lewis.

ABOVE: John Nicholas.

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A busy summer in the constituency for MP

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON is writing an exclusive monthly report from Westminster for The GEM.

It's been a mixed summer. Yes the sun has shone most of August, which was wonderful, but the cold snap of September came fast, almost at the same time as I returned to chilly atmosphere of Westminster for two weeks, before the Conference recess.

August was full of meetings here in the constituency. Some were academic in nature, talking to students about summer work projects they faced.

Some were supporting constituents with personal meetings to resolve difficulties with local service providers. Others were informative.

I had never heard of the Kerrigan Project so I was intrigued to go and meet them and learn about the support they give to the homeless.

The project is in two parts. They provide support and accommodation to people who are ready to tackle problems, including addiction, and build a life away from the streets.

This is not an easy task. The workers at the project do a great job helping the residents build a home in the centre and negotiate a new future.

The project also offers overnight accommodation to people who are street homeless. As the cold weather draws in and the dark nights return, this service will be in increasing demand.

In contrast, most people know Y Bont and the fantastic work the staff there do working with children with special needs. Y Bont is a charity and the trustees spend hours bidding for and seeking funds to keep the facilities available at the cutting edge of the educational experience for the children.

They were fortunate to be chosen by Freudenberg a multinational company with a factory in Port Talbot as a charity to support. The company had helped provide the children at Y Bont with a new sensory garden and playground.

Staff from Freudenberg also helped alongside volunteers to build the playground and garden, which opened in August. Funding support will continue for at least the next two years and their involvement has made a huge difference to the lives of the children.

Y Bont were also part of my discussions with staff from the Big Lottery as a grant of £530,055 has been made to help with new developments in the indoor space for the children.

Despite the success of local organisations such as Y Bont and St Theodores in Kenfig Hill, who will have £100,000 to develop a new wellbeing facility at the church, Bridgend is not accessing lottery funds the way it should.

Not enough bids are coming from local charities, sports clubs and organisations that could benefit. Later this year, working with Big Lottery, BAVO and BCBC we will host two meetings, one in Bridgend and one in Porthcawl to provide help and support to access lottery funds. Watch this space for the date, times and venues.

Talking to people is a big part of the job of an MP and I was asked to speak to the Porthcawl Stroke Cub and Bridgend Rotary during August. Both wanted to know about my defence work and penetrating questions came from the audiences.

Very different settings, but the same desire to understand the threats we face as a country; traditional threats from land, sea and air but also the new threats from terrorists, cyber-attack, disinformation and, following the incidents in Salisbury, chemical weapons.

I greatly enjoyed both meetings and hopefully sharing a fuller understanding of the pressures faced by our military personnel.

I cannot end without mentioning Brexit. It's also been a big part of the summer. Lord Andrew Adonis came to address a meeting organised by Bridgend for Europe, a new cross-party organisation campaigning for a People's Vote on the final deal.

Many things divide political parties, so it was good to see people from across the political spectrum and from no political affiliations pour into the Sony theatre in Bridgend to hear him.

Then I was able to make good on an agreement made in the members' tea room in July with Richard Harrington MP. Richard is the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

We had debated together in Westminster Hall about the impact of Brexit on the automotive industry. After the debate I talked to Richard about Ford workers in Bridgend.

Richard accepted my invitation to come to Bridgend and see for himself how four engines are built every two minutes and the high skills level of the workforce.

The visit this week brought senior staff from London and the European directorate of Ford to talk to the Minister. Three issues dominated the discussions. They said that the slightest volatility in the value of the pound has a huge impact. A £0.01 percentage change can bring a loss of millions to a company, a major issue when a bad news day about Brexit triggers changes on the world's currency trading floors.

The need for seamless trading and movement of goods post Brexit is critical for many companies, but especially so for the automotive industry. Car parts move back and forth across Europe before a finished car is sold to a customer.

Border hold ups and tariffs would mean having to find finances to pay for, and space to stock pile parts, employing new staff to complete customs declaration forms as well as potentially leaving workers in assembly plants such as Bridgend with nothing to do while waiting for parts. Those four engines built every two minutes, need a lot of parts.

Uncertainty between a hard Brexit, a no deal Brexit and the Chequers agreement do not help business or customers make decisions.

These three messages were repeated by local small and medium-sized business and the representative from the Welsh Government, who later joined us for a round table discussion.

Finally there was a tour of the new Dragon assembly area and a chance to meet the plant management, apprentices and the highly skilled staff who have driven the new layout and work programme.

It was a good day. Good to let the Minister know the impact of decisions and negotiations on Ford workers and the company. Good too for people to have a chance to air their concerns. The clock is ticking.

Behind the scenes at Ford's Bridgend engine plant.

Start times for Cowbridge 10K

MORE informtion has been released about the 'Cowbridge 10k' event, which takes place on Sunday, September 30.

The 5k run will start at 10am and the 10k runners will line up to start at 10.30am.

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Kenfig Hill Air Cadets take part in RAF 100 parade

Instructor Staff Cadet Warrant Officer Jack Morris Photograph by Mrs A Griffiths

SIX cadets from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron RAF Air Cadets took part in the RAF centenary parade, along with cadets from No1 and No3 Welsh Wing held at Barry on September 9.

Instructor Staff Cadet Warrant Officer Jack Morris paraded the squadron banner at the event.

The parade was one of the last to be held in Wales to celebrate the Royal Air Force centenary celebrations and around 100 cadets and 17 staff from No3 Welsh Wing took part.

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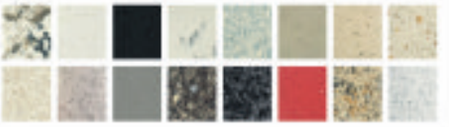

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'Town centre micropub planning not yet approved' says Vale Council

MANAGERS of a new micropub in Barry say they are confident the venue can continue, despite opening before securing planning permission.

Owners of the Butterfly Collector say they have received good support from the public since opening the real ale and craft beer bar in a previously empty unit in Holton Road in August.

The Vale Council has said a planning application for the micropub has not yet been approved.

Cllr Vince Driscoll, vice-chairman of the council's planning committee, is the landlord of the unit but has had no involvement with the business, the managers of the pub have said.

The pub managers are working with the council's planning team to resolve the planning situation as soon as possible.

A spokesman for the Butterfly Collector said: "We're doing everything we can with the planning application and providing any information needed by the planning officers.

"The support has been fantastic. The pub is a good thing for the town. Hopefully they will see that.

"Based on the feedback we have had, the community thinks it's a positive to have a business of this nature."

The council says it is not unlawful to open in advance of obtaining planning permissions, but developers do so at their own risk.

Plaid Cymru councillor Ian Johnson, a member of the Vale council's planning committee, said: "The opening of the new pub has been welcomed by many people, it's been in the local papers and there's been a buzz about it on social media.

"However, when a pub opens in a building apparently owned by a Conservative councillor who is both the chair of licensing and vice-chair of planning, you would expect them to follow the rules.

"Barry residents would be appalled if developers started to build houses or the incinerator started operating before planning permission is agreed."

The application for the micropub is due to be presented to the planning committee on September 27.

A Vale Council spokesman said: "While it is not unlawful to open in advance of obtaining planning permission from the council, it would be unauthorised and it is unfortunate if this has happened.

"Any operator or developer who does so, does this at their own risk, should the council determine that planning permission should not be granted."

The Fresh Bacon Company, of which Mr Driscoll is a director, is listed as the owner of the unit in the planning application.

Mr Driscoll has been contacted for comment.

Matt Discombe, Local Democracy Reporter

EuroSkills test in Budapest looms for local student

CARDIFF and Vale College Electrical Installation apprentice Tom Lewis will be joining the best of the UK's young learners as he heads off to Budapest for the EuroSkills finals later this month.

Team UK – 22 of the UK's most able apprentices and students working in the engineering, digital, construction and professional industries – are facing tough competition as they take on their Continental peers

Mr Lewis, 21 and from Maesteg, has been supported throughout the WorldSkills process by his employers Blues Electrical and his college electrical installation tutor Geoff Shaw.

CB

Epilepsy support group

EPILEPSY Wales runs a monthly support group at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop in Holton Road, Barry.

This will be held on Thursday, September 20 from 10.30am to 12pm. You will be able to chat to health care professional Lesley Williams from Epilepsy Wales and find out what is available in your area.

No appointment is needed, just come along. Call 01446 732385 for further information.

No. 98 bus: 'Use it or lose it' urges Mayor

VALE Mayor Cllr Leighton Rowlands has praised the efforts of local campaigners following the fight to increase services on the 98 bus from Highlight Park to King Square.

Cllr Rowlands, who was involved in the campaign along with residents and local MP Alun Cairns, said he is "delighted" that the trial service is under way.

He said: "I'm delighted that we've secured a result on the 98 bus.

"I've been working with local residents who have played a vital role in achieving this. Strong campaigns, led by local people, are the best way to fight the issues that really matter.

"We had the benefit of that when fighting for the 98 bus."

Cllr Rowlands requested that the Vale Council release funding for the bus trial which runs until December 21. The council and Cardiff Bus have said that for the service to continue it needs people to use it in numbers.

Cllr Rowlands added: "It shows when people work together on local issues, we can achieve positive outcomes."

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Laddy with Hannah.

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FRIENDS' QUIZ

FRIENDS of Penarth Library are holding a quiz in the library on Stanwell Road on Tuesday, September 25 from 6pm to 8pm.

Teams should be between four and six people and the price is £2 per head. Refreshments will be provided and a raffle will be held during the evening.

To book a team, call in to the library and pick up a booking form or ring the library on 02920708438.

Recycling: a Vale councillor responds

LAST week, Island resident Barrie V Evans wrote a letter to The GEM arguing that wheelie bins might provide some of the answers for the Vale Council's waste and recycling service and that there were other new measures he did not agree with.

Here Cllr Geoff Cox, the Vale cabinet member for neighbourhood services, responds to the points Mr Evans made…

Mr Evans said: "First we were told to separate all our recyclable waste and then that was changed to tell us all we should co-mingle it."

Many people may not appreciate that I was the cabinet member who a number of years ago made the decision to co-mingle.

This was the correct decision at the time, to reduce costs while also increasing the recycling rate through increased participation and ease of use, especially as recycling was still relatively new to some residents.

However, most GEM readers will appreciate that when the global recycling market recently took a downturn, influenced by the restrictions imposed by China, it had a significant impact on the value of recyclate, making it more expensive to sell a co-mingled recycling product because of its lesser quality.

In addition, charges by processers to sort co-mingled material have increased by over £500,000.

This means that a separated, high quality product, produced as a result of separated collections is far more valuable and sustainable as this material is more sought after by processors.

However, it is not just about price, as the council has a legal duty under the Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 to collect waste paper, metal, plastic and glass separately if the quality from a co-mingled service is compromised.

We previously could justify having a co-mingled collection but we cannot now do so.

Mr Evans mentioned 'wheeled bins…'

The photograph by Mr Evans of bins at the council's Court Road depot shows bins that were present on the site a few years ago.

We now hold a stock of 497 bins of various sizes and types within our depot at Court Road. We are required to keep a variety of sizes of bins to supply areas unaffected by the new recycling arrangements which are to be introduced next year.

Examples are communal bin stores located at flats and apartment blocks and for our dedicated commercial waste service that requires a selection of wheeled bins to be readily available for supplying potential customers.

If all 50,000 plus households in the Vale were to be supplied with wheeled bins it would cost the council, and subsequently the ratepayers, around £1.5m.

Additionally, our existing collections vehicles would need to be fitted with alternative bin lifts at a cost of around £250,000 and these would adversely affect the productivity of collection crews as it takes longer to load wheeled bins than non-returnable containers.

The use of wheeled bins is simply financially unsustainable and, even if we could obtain grant funding for them, it is not something the council would consider.

As I have previously explained, it would result in an increase of unwanted waste and produce high levels of contaminated mixed recycling, further increasing the current processing costs.

Mr Evans referred to: "...two black bags a fortnight"

Past performance has shown that many households are able to cope with the two black bags or less a fortnight. With the new policy there will still be no limit to the amount of dry, garden and food recycling waste and if residents follow the guidelines the black bag allowance is achievable.

There is support and additional waste allocations for households that produce high levels of pet waste, nappies/adult hygiene products and ashes (non-recyclable material).

Early indications demonstrate an exceptional response from our residents with a 29 per cent decrease in the amount of black bag waste in the first week of the new system, when compared to the same period of time over previous years.

Mr Evans raised the issue of fly-tipping.

The council will not hesitate to take action against anyone caught fly-tipping. Fly-tipping is a crime and anyone caught could be issued with a fixed penalty notice or prosecuted and fined.

I hope that my response will provide some further assurance to your readers.

Charity receives month's supply of free milk

Pictured receiving his prize from Jones Dairies is Steve Thomas (left).

JONES Dairies of Barry recently sponsored a competition at the Vale Show to guess the amount of milk produced by a cow in one day.

The competition proved challenging, with most of the guesses being too low. The winner who was nearest the answer of 93 pints was Steve Thomas of High Street, Barry.

Steve donated the prize of a month's supply of milk to local charity Cafe No 5, which is run by ValePlus and is based in High Street, Barry.

NFU Vale Show prize winner

Pam Harris of the Bridgend agency presents the wellies to a delighted Mrs Trevitt.

NFU Mutual Bridgend and the Vale agency held a prize draw at their stand at this year's successful Vale of Glamorgan Show.

The prize was a pair of Hunter wellies and socks, which was won by Sue Trevitt.

Charity wants to hear your 'sea' memories

A 200-YEAR-old maritime charity is calling on people in the Vale to share their memories of the sea to highlight their connection and dependence on the sea.

Stuart Rivers, Sailors' Society's CEO said: "Whether it's beach balls, flip-flops or the ingredients used to make an ice cream, 90 per cent of everything you see beside the seaside is transported by sea.

"During the heatwave, many people from the Vale will have headed to the beach to create long-lasting memories.

"Whether you spent childhood holidays at the beach, or have made a career out of working at sea, we'd love to hear and share your stories."

Sailors' Society works internationally to provide practical, emotional and spiritual welfare support to the world's 1.6m seafarers, regardless of their background or faith.

The charity's chaplains and ship visitors have a presence in 91 global ports, with wider projects and services covering 30 countries.

Share your stories and pictures at www.theseaandme.org.

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Barry's grand parade as RAF celebrates its freedom of the Vale – granted 44 years ago

The RAF Claymore sword.

Members of RAF St Athan marched through Barry to celebrate 80 years since it was first established and 100 years of the Royal Air Force.

On Sunday, September 9, around 390 RAF personnel met at King Square in Barry, before marching down Holton Road to the Vale Council's Civic Offices.

The event was attended by Vale of Glamorgan Mayor, Cllr Leighton Rowlands, Council Leader John Thomas, Vale Council Managing Director Rob Thomas, and Secretary of State for Wales Rt Hon Alun Cairns, Lord Lieutenant and the High Sheriff.

It was the final of five parades that RAF St Athan has led across south Wales.

The Parade Commander, Wing Commander Steve Rowley, marched with a rare RAF Claymore Sword, one of only three known to exist in the UK.

The Freedom Sword was gifted to the Vale Council in 1974 when RAF St Athan was awarded the Honorary Freedom of the county borough. The sword was last paraded in 2013, but this is the first time that a Station Commander has carried the sword in a Freedom Parade.

Cllr Leighton Rowlands, said: "It was a great honour to allow RAF St Athan to exercise their freedom to march through the streets of Barry to celebrate their 100 years. It was wonderful to see so many people support and pay tribute to past, present and future RAF members."

Alin Cairns MP said: "The parade was a fantastic way to demonstrate the pride we have in our Armed Forces and I'm delighted that our celebration in Barry was the biggest RAF100 event in Wales.

"It shows how well appreciated the RAF is locally and I'd like to pay tribute to the incredible individuals who serve and have served for everything they have done for our country."

An RAF100 exhibition is currently on display at Cowbridge & District Museum in Cowbridge Town Hall. The exhibition is a celebration of engineering training, aircraft storage and aircraft engineering excellence carried out at RAF, as well as local people who served in the RAF. The display will run until October 20.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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Out & About with The GEM

American Animals blurs boundaries – and makes for a wholly thrilling experience

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

ONE of the finest documentaries of recent years is Bart Layton's The Imposter, a story of fake identities and frightening truths. Much like many documentary filmmakers, Layton has now tried his hand at tackling a feature film, but American Animals comes with a twist.

Balancing documentary and dramatic retelling, it's the story of Spencer Reinhard (Barry Keoghan), Warren Lipka (Evan Peters), Eric Borsuk (Jared Abrahamson) and Chas Allen (Blake Jenner), four friends whose ordinary existence is shattered when Reinhard and Lipka come up with the idea for one of the most audacious heists in American history.

Planning to steal rare books from a university library, the four friends soon begin to unravel under the pressure of what they're planning...

Moving from documentary to feature film is a journey littered with potholes, but Bart Layton, on the evidence of *American Animals*, has managed to safely avoid these pitfalls.

Using a mix of talking heads and dramatic reconstruction, *American Animals* treads a woozy balance, but it's Layton's ability to drive the story and create interesting juxtapositions both narratively and visually that make this film a truly superb piece of work.

At its core is a heist movie, but one that feels as ill-thought out as it is audacious; stealing rare books from a library guarded only by one older lady, the group see this is as a way out of their humdrum lives. But while the heist works on paper, once put into action, can they see a way to doing what they think they can do?

It's one of many questions proffered throughout, a story of youthful ennui and disenfranchisement, trying to find a way out of a life that offers, to those involved, seemingly nothing. Not that these are four, down-at-the-heel young men – they are athletes, artists, wannabe FBI agents, all drawn to the idea of this heist as a way of making sense of their everyday existence.

What unfolds, as Layton tells the story with regular cutaways to the real people involved, is a thrilling and exciting tale of trust and escapism, one that leaves you wholly rapt and engaged throughout.

The story is captivating enough, but Layton is smart enough to play in the grey area between dramatic retelling and documentary realism.

Events are debated and amended by Layton (meeting a fixer, we go back and forth altering the colour of his scarf, and even the fixer himself, based on the real-life recollections of those involved), while the real subjects and their dramatised counterparts share the screen debating the reality of the events they are recounting.

While it sounds a little highfalutin', Layton grounds it so that it adds depth and layers to the story being told, and it's a formidable and highly impressive outing for the British filmmaker.

The cast are all very good; Barry Keoghan (who was so impressive in *Dunkirk*) capturing the tortured nature of a teenager whose big idea is crumbling around him and he wants out, while Evan Peters portrays the brains and the drive of the group, an individual who is prepared to push things. Jared Abrahamson and Blake Jenner round out the four, their turns quietly strong but ceding centre ground to the central relationship of Keoghan and Peters, who are excellent.

It would have been easy to have played this straight as a heist movie, made the central characters loveable rogues, but Layton is always capable of subtly shifting our gaze, and when it comes to the heist itself, reminding us that beneath the jokey atmosphere there is a sense of malevolence that will come down to bear on those caught up in the middle of it.

If you want to nitpick, you could suggest that the running time is a bit generous, with Layton playing events out slowly, but this works to the film's advantage. As the story unfurls, you find yourself becoming drawn deeper and deeper.

Come the climax, Layton's ability to peel away layers pays dividends as you find yourself wondering just what is truth and what is subjective, and it results in a film that is one of the most impressive of this year. *American Animals* is a tremendously daring piece of work.

VERDICT: A heist film with a twist, *American Animals* becomes a richer and more layered film through the use of talking heads and a teasing thread of truth. Playing with conceptions and the subjectiveness of events, Bart Layton crafts a thrilling and tension-fuelled study of the ambivalence of youth. One of the year's best, this comes wholly recommended. *Essential viewing*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Impostor* (2012).

Glamorgan NFU/YFC Harvest Festival

NFU CYMRU and Glamorgan YFC will host a Harvest Festival on Thursday, October 4 at Margam Abbey, Margam, Port Talbot.

This year's service will start at 7.30pm and will be followed by light refreshments.

Glamorgan NFU Cymru county chairman, Gwyn Thomas said: "Once again we hope to get a good turnout at this year's event. I would encourage all local members to come along to join with the local rural youth movement, Glamorgan YFC, for this annual event. The invitation is extended to all – we look forward to welcoming you there."

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National Trust meeting

THE Vale of Glamorgan Association of National Trust Members and Volunteers is holding a meeting on September 19, starting at 7.30pm, at The Duke of Wellington, Cowbridge.

The speaker is Dean Powell, on the subject 'Llantrisant: History of the Hilltop'. Dean will take the group on a fascinating journey through the history of Llantrisant and its pivotal role in the revolts of the Welsh against the Norman overlords.

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Why not come along to Age Connects Cardiff and Vale free Falls Awareness course? Topics include exercise, relaxation, home safety and foot care.

It starts on September 13 and will run for 12 weeks at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on Thursday afternoons from 2pm to 3.30pm. To book a place, contact 01446 732385.

Messy Church

MESSY Church will be held this coming Sunday, September 16 in the Reading Room, Bonvilston (opposite Old Village Shop) at 2.30pm until about 4pm.

We extend a very warm welcome to youngsters (and toddlers, with their parents) to some fun activities for all of the family; lots of crafty things to make, a Bible story, a bit of singing and plenty of refreshments.

We would be so pleased if you could join us: further info from Rev Lee Dutfield on 07784 869020; Canon Martyn Davies on 01446 760498 or Ann roach, on 01446 781309.

Care and Repair

IF you are a homeowner or private tenant living in Vale of Glamorgan; elderly or disabled and needing advice on repairs or home improvements, Care and Repair Cardiff and Vale can help you to adapt and maintain your home; give advice on grants available and information on reputable companies to use.

Care and Repair will hold an advice session at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on Tuesday, September 18 from 10am to 12pm No appointment is needed. Call 01446 732385 for further information.

Councillors' surgery

CLLRS Gordon Kemp and Matt Lloyd will hold a surgery at Rhoose Community Centre, Stewart Road, Rhoose, on Saturday, September 15 between 10am and 11am; no appointment necessary.

Charity scooter ride

THERE will be a charity ride by Distant Echo Scooter Club on Sunday, September 16 from the Tynewydd Inn at 11am to Porthcawl and back. Scooters and motorbikes all welcome, and donations encouraged.

MP surgery

ALUN CAIRNS MP is holding a community surgery at Glenbrook Inn, Barry on Monday, September 17, running from 7pm until 8pm.

The surgery is an open forum, where residents will have the opportunity to ask questions on a range of issues. Anyone who is interested in attending should call 01446 748 657.

Please note, there will not be an opportunity for private discussion at this surgery; for more information contact the office.

Diabetes event

THE next meeting of the Vale of Glamorgan Diabetes UK Voluntary Group takes place on Tuesday, September 18 in the Board Room, Llandough Hospital, Penarth from 7.30pm to 9pm.

The speaker will be Menna Jones from MIND in the Vale, who will speak on 'General wellbeing, depression and living with a chronic disease' who will also be providing leaflets and information on other relevant courses.

Community surgery

ALUN CAIRNS MP is holding a community surgery at The Barn at West Farm on Tuesday, September 18, running from 6pm until 7pm.

The surgery is an open forum, where residents will have the opportunity to ask questions on a range of issues. Anyone who is interested in attending should contact the office on 01446 748 657.

Please note, there will not be opportunity for private discussion at this surgery, for more information contact the office.

Brainteasers for a better memory

AN Alzheimer's Society dementia champion will be available at the cafe from 10am until 12pm on Tuesday, September 18 to discuss how we can support people with dementia.

Did you know that 'brainteaser' games can help your memory? There will be 10" tablets available with games downloaded for people to try, with volunteer computer support.

Games included on the tablets are: Sudoku, word search, Endless Quiz, Memory Cards, Solitaire, Colour Me, and online jigsaws. Call 01446 732385 for further information.

Royal British Legion

THE next meeting of the Royal British Legion, Barry is taking place on Tuesday, September 18 at 7.30pm in Cadoxton Conservative Club.

Members, non-members, volunteers or anyone wanting to find out more about the RBL are welcome.

In this centenary year of the cessation of hostilities at the end of World War One, there is much planned. Follow the group on Facebook – RBL Poppy Appeal, Barry and Rhoose.

'Parent Voice Group' launch meeting

PARENTS of pupils at High Street Primary School in Barry have launched a 'parent voice group'.

The first meeting, at the school, is on Tuesday, September 18 at 6pm.

Floral society

'SPORTING Favourites' is the title of a floral demonstration at Barry Floral Society's next meeting, by Yvonne Berry of Bromyard.
The meeting will take place at St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry on Tuesday, September 18 at 2.15pm. New members always welcome.

Valeways walks

ON 18 September at 10yb, 'Celf yn yr Orsaf – Valeways Art Track', Gorsaf Reilffordd Y Barry Railway Station.

On Wednesday, September 19 at 10am, the Barry Coffee Shop Strollers meet at the Bridge Cafe car park in Barry.

Also on September 19 at 2.30pm, the Cowbridge Coffee Shop Strollers meet at the Physic Garden Fountain.

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Councillor questions abilities of local authority staff over parking strategy report

A COUNCILLOR has voiced concern at £48,000 the Vale Council paid outside consultants to prepare a draft parking strategy.

The proposals are under public consultation until September 28.

Cllr Kevin Mahoney, who represents the Sully Ward, claimed council employees could have done the job, saving money.

He said: "Quite frankly, if the Vale doesn't have the capability for its own staff to come up with a 'let's introduce and increase parking charges to make more money out of residents and visitors' report without handing over an outrageous £48,000 to Capita, then we need to take a good look at staffing abilities."

Cllr Mahoney said he was "hugely concerned" at the implications of the parking proposals for residents and local businesses.

"In my own ward, the implications of imposing parking charges at Cosmeston Park has the potential to see large numbers of visitors to the park avoiding fees by clogging up the narrow access roads at Lavernock Park estate.

"The council's own consultation map actually has this – and other estates and residential areas identified as potential dispersal areas – already acknowledging that locations will more than likely become new parking facilities for the country park and high street shopping centres."

Cllr Mahoney said he didn't think Vale rate payers should have to pay to visit a park that they already fund out of their council tax.

"At a time when we are all concerned about fitness and health levels, to impose a fine on residents to visit a park that they already fund for their exercise and social activities, is simply wrong. Regular visitors could be looking at a couple of hundred pounds a year just to visit their own park."

by GEM REPORTER
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Cllr Mahoney said: "What is left out of the proposals is the removal of free parking for the officials and councillors putting forward these proposals, who all enjoy free parking at council offices.

"A significant number of councillors even have the cheek to have permits for their own exclusive reserved free car parking area at County Hall.

"I'm wondering why they feel that they are so important that they should enjoy free reserved parking when the general public currently has to scrap it out for limited parking elsewhere, and now faces these new restrictions and charges.

"I personally refuse to take advantage of this little perk available only to the 'great and good'."

Cllr Mahoney added: "I would like to suggest that the councillors' 'reserved free parking area' is removed and that all council office car parks are open to the public during working hours on a 'two hours before paying' basis.

"This would also apply to the officials and councillors who currently enjoy free parking while proposing to impose fees on others."

A Vale Council spokesperson explained that the management of parking (and other services) was in the spotlight because of the reduced financial settlement from the Welsh Government.

"Producing the 'Draft Parking Strategy' was a technical piece of work that required a high level of parking and transportation expertise.

"It involved promoting the efficient use of parking spaces in the Vale, while encouraging alternative sustainable modes of transport and enhancing the local economy.

"The council had neither the staff resources nor the necessary specialist experience in house to conduct this research which is why Capita were contracted to undertake it.

"Given the continual year on year reductions in the settlement afforded to this council by Welsh Government, the council must consider its approach to the management of car parking and other services across the Vale.

"A consultation exercise on this issue is currently taking place and we invite residents, local business owners, councillors and other stakeholders to contribute by the deadline of September 28.

"A number of well-attended drop-in sessions have already been held and we thank those that have participated for their contribution. All views expressed will be given full consideration and no decisions on this matter have yet been taken.

"The council is looking at introducing a parking strategy for a number of reasons.

"We need to generate a turnover of vehicles in town centres and ensure that the same cars do not remain parked in these areas for extended periods of time. Such a turnover can benefit town centre businesses as well as visitors.

"It is also vital that we recoup the costs linked to car parking provision, as well as those associated with maintaining other areas such as highly regarded country parks like Porthkerry.

"This money can then be used to run the car parks and reinvest into town centres, coastal resorts and green spaces as well as assisting the council to manage its budgets moving forward."

The spokesman added: "Under the Capita proposals, the Civic Office would serve as a private car park throughout the working week. Then on the weekend and bank holidays it would became a long-stay car park, with councillors and council staff subject to exactly the same charges as everyone else."

Davies beats Davies in race to replace Davies as Conservative leader

PAUL DAVIES was named the new leader of the Welsh Conservative Group in the assembly last week, beating South Wales West Regional AM Suzy Davies for the position.

The announcement was made following a ballot of members at Ffos Las Racecourse, Kidwelly.

Speaking after the result, the AM for Preseli Pembrokeshire, said: "I am humbled to have won the support of so many MPs, AMs, Councillors, activists and grassroots supporters from across Wales."

The election was called after South Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies stood down as group leader earlier this year.

Speaking of Suzy Davies, Paul Davies said: "(she) fought an optimistic and forward-looking campaign, and I look forward to working closely with her, and the rest of the Welsh Conservative team, over the coming months and years.The declaration was made by the Chairman of the Welsh Conservatives, Byron Davies.

He said: "I'd like to thank both Paul and Suzy for their exemplary campaigns. They worked hard, stayed focused and remained positive throughout.

"With Paul as our new group leader in the assembly, we can now get on with the business of holding Welsh Labour to account and speaking up for the people of Wales as the only real credible alternative for government.'

Suzy Davies said she was disappointed by the result, but pledged her support for the new leader.

She said: "The prize here is much bigger than this contest – it is a Wales for the future, not a Wales of the past. I congratulate Paul and wish him well. He has my personal support in our march forward.

She went on: I am profoundly grateful to those who voted for me but I know they understand, even in a competition like this, we are all on the same side. And we need to be if Wales is to see that life beyond Labour is worth fighting for."

DH

Male voice choir to hold an open evening

COWBRIDGE Male Voice Choir in conjunction with their sponsors The Place for Homes are holding an open and recruitment evening on September 19 at The Place for Homes, Unit 1, Sutton Road, Llandow, Cowbridge.

A buffet supper will be provided from 6pm, the choir's open rehearsal will start at 7.30pm.

If you are interested in seeing how a male voice choir works, come along next Wednesday and not only enjoy the rehearsal but see what The Place for Homes can offer.

Gentlemen: this is an ideal opportunity to come along and sing with the choir and see exactly what you can achieve. Don't be shy, come along and join in.

You can also bring your wife and let her browse while you join in the singing!

The choir's next concert is a joint concert with Cathays Brass on Saturday, September 22 at the church of St Andrew and St Teilo, Woodville Road, Cathays, Cardiff commencing at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 are available from cathaysbrasstickets@gmail.com. This concert is in aid of the charity Llamau.

Llamau aim to end home homelessness and change futures by addressing the complex and individual needs of people facing homelessness

Following that, on Wednesday, September 26 the choir will be in concert at the Church of St Cadoc Llancarfan. The concert will start at 7.30pm.

The choirs look forward to meeting you at any or all of these events.

Commemorative quilt exhibited

THE Cowbridge Commemorative Quilt has now been completed and will be shown at the Lesser Hall on October 30 between 2pm and 4pm, before being hung in the Ty Hafan shop window on October 31.

It will remain there until Thursday, November 15.

News in brief

Vale Stroke Group

THE Vale Stroke Group resumes on Tuesday, September 18 at Llantonian Hall in Llantwit Major.

Organiser Liz Evans said: "The meeting will start at 2pm and will go on until around 4pm. People who have suffered a stroke, are a carer, or family member, are all welcome to attend.

"On September 18 we are welcoming someone from 'Samaritans' who will give a talk. There will be a chance for people to have a chat and tea or coffee afterwards."

The group provides support for people living with the effects of a stroke. People attend it from the Llantwit Major and Cowbridge areas, but organisers welcome anyone from across the Vale.

Tractor run

A CLASSIC tractor road run is being held on Sunday, September 23 at 10am starting from Llanilid Farm, Pencoed (CF35 5LA) supporting Nick's Trust Fund and Marie Curie in memory of Lizzie Edwards (further details from Wayne Griffiths on 07866 495064).

Entry is £10 per tractor/vehicle/4x4. Guest appearance by Welsh Rugby International Players at the half way stop and a Gareth Bale-signed football shirt, a signed pair of worn football boots by Gareth Bale and a Cardiff City-signed football are to be auctioned along with many other generously donated items. A hog roast is to be served along with Sub Zero ice-cream. Come along and support them, bring the children for some fun.

Cowbridge and District Flower Arrangers meet

TALENTED and well-known demonstrator Delyth Price visited our club this month.

The colour and magic she brought with her arrangements left the club in awe.

The arrangements were raffled leaving some members very, very happy. In the photograph is Delyth Price making final adjustments to one of the arrangements.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, October 3 in the Lesser Hall in Cowbridge at 7.30pm. New members always welcome.

Meet the police around the Vale

GIBBONSDOWN 'Cuppa with a Copper' is held every Monday morning at the Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close between 10am and 12 noon?

GIBBONSDOWN PACT will be held at 10.30am on Tuesday, September 18 at the residents' board office, Coychurch Rise, Barry. You can meet your local officers at **PENARTH** Leisure Centre on Thursday, September 13 at 10am.

Meet your local officer at **LLANTWIT MAJOR** Library on Thursday, September 13 between 10.30am and 11.30am. PCSO Angela Stone will be on hand for a coffee and chat at the village shop, **COLWINSTON**, on Tuesday, September 25 at 11am.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, contact 101 for non emergencies or log onto: www.south-wales.police.uk where you will find contact details for your local PCSO to contact them directly for non emergency matters.

WI 'spellbound' by Mavis's silk prints

ON September 6, St Nicholas WI met after their summer recess in The Reading Room, Bonvilston.

President Jan Hayes welcomed Mavis Tierney, who gave us a very interesting and entertaining demonstrated of silk printing. Mavis told us of her busy life silk printing, beekeeping, two allotments and being a tutor in Denman College.

The colours of the scarf she created were amazing and the audience were spellbound.

Following refreshments, arrangements were made for a trip to the Royal Mint and lunch at the Butcher's Arms on September 12. Plans were discussed for our Christmas meal.

The raffle was won by Anne Walklate and our speaker for October 4 is Deborah Johnson: an 'Edwardian Maid' at 7pm. All new members welcome.

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Police appeal after Brackla robbery

DETECTIVES investigating a robbery at a shop in Bridgend are appealing for witnesses who saw a man on a bike to come forward.

South Wales Police is investigating a robbery at Brackla General Store in Waunscil Avenue, Bridgend, which happened shortly after 3.45pm on Friday, September 7.

No-one was injured in the incident. A quantity of cash was stolen.

The suspect is described as a white man, who was wearing a hooded top and was seen by witnesses leaving the area on a mountain bike.

Detective Inspector Andy Paddison said: "We would like to hear from anyone who saw anyone acting suspiciously in the vicinity before, during or after the incident. The suspect rode off on a bucycle in the daytime from the store.

"If you saw someone matching the description riding around the area or have any information which could assist the investigation, then please give us a call.

"We would like to reassure the community that these type of incidents are uncommon and we will utilise all appropriate resources to bring the offender to justice."

Anyone with information can call us on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 quoting occurrence number 1800341648.

Former children's home is now a conservation area

A former children's home in Bridgend which dates back to the late 19th century has been designated as a conservation area to protect its heritage.

Thirteen homes in Preswylfa Court are Grade II listed, having been built as 'Cottage Homes' for children between 1880 and 1902.

Known as the Merthyr Mawr Road Children's Home, it was renamed Preswylfa in 1950.

During the 1990s new homes were built around the 'village green' intermittently placed between the older buildings.

But while the design and materials of the new development were controlled at the time through the planning process, the local authority says incremental changes being made to the modern homes are having a negative effect on the character of the area.

In a report which went before Bridgend County Borough Council's development control committee on August 30, officers state: "Without controls being introduced, there is a real risk of the area becoming so materially affected that the value of the built heritage could be irretrievably lost."

According to officers, the issue has arisen due to changes in ownership of the homes and the ongoing need for maintenance and repairs.

While alterations, extensions and demolition to the listed buildings can be controlled, alterations to the more recent homes have been classed as permitted development.

Councillors designated the Preswylfa Court Conservation Area earlier this year to avoid harm to the setting of the listed buildings and enable the "preservation and enhancement" of the character and appearance of the area as a whole.

At the end of August the Welsh Government confirmed the council's decision.

It means those living at Preswylfa Court in the newer homes will now have to seek planning permission for work previously classed as permitted development.

This includes any changes to the roof materials, windows and doors, as well as external painting and the installation of a gate or fence.

In addition to the conservation area, part of the new directions have been issued under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995.

In a consultation on the plans, owners of the properties recognised the need to protect the area and prevent any further deterioration.

Liz Bradfield
Local democracy reporter

Brackla plan is withdrawn

PLANS to build three homes near ancient woodland in Bridgend have been withdrawn.

The outline planning application involved building three detached homes and garages on Briary Wood, Briary Way, Brackla.

The plans had sparked outrage among residents living nearby who launched a campaign to save the woodland.

The site forms part of the locally-designated 'Tremains' Site of Importance for Nature Conservation and is also registered as Ancient Semi Natural Woodland with the trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders (TPO).

The Woodland Trust formally objected to the application saying the development would cause significant damage to an important habitat.

Natural Resources Wales recommended planning permission be granted but only if a condition relating to bats was made as part of the application

It said further surveys would be required if any pruning or removal of trees was to be carried out due to some trees having a "moderate potential" for roosting bats.

The application – P/18/381/OUT – was withdrawn by the agent, Vale Planning, on September 5.

Liz Bradfield
Local democracy reporter

PACT meeetings

BLACKMILL PACT public meeting at Blackmill Community Centre on Monday, September 10 at 6.30pm.

Maesteg East, Maesteg West and Llangynwyd PACT at Cwm Calon, Castle Street, Maesteg on Thursda, September 13 at 6pm.

Ynysawdre PACT public meeting at Ynysawdre Community Hall on Wednesday, September12 at 6.30pm.

Caerau PACT at Noddfa Community Centre on Monday, September 24 at 6pm.

Llangeinor PACT at the Richard Price Centre, Llangeinor on Wednesday, September 26 at 5.30pm.

Youth film festival returns to Bridgend in November

BOOKINGS are now live for UK-wide Into Film Festival – which returns this November to the Odeon Bridgend and 41 other venues in Wales.

Several free screenings will be held throughout November, as part of a festival offering nearly 45,000 free cinema tickets to primary and secondary school students.

Into Film Cymru is hosting 184 screenings between November 3 and 23, including the Odeon Bridgend.

Non Stevens, head of Into Film Cymru, said: "We're delighted to have pulled together such a wide-ranging bilingual programme for what is now a highly anticipated festival."

Hosted by film education charity Into Film, the festival is supported by Cinema First and the BFI through National Lottery funding, and engages with UK schools.

The festival is free to all students, supporting education through a carefully curated programme of films and events for schools with topical themes, resources, debates, special events and careers activity. All tickets must be booked by educators: at *www.intofilm.org/festival*.

Welsh actor Rhys Ifans is a big supporter of the Film Festival: "Film is a great leveller, and can lead to an exciting avenue of exploration for all students, regardless of background and ability.

"What's great about Into Film Cymru – and the film festival, which is completely free – is that you are opening up a world of possibilities for all, regardless of how much money they have in their pocket. Film should be accessible to all and I, for one, want to champion its power."

The festival opens across the UK on November 7 with simultaneous pupil premieres of Illumination's *The Grinch*.

In Wales, Cardiff's Cineworld will show the film, based on Dr Seuss's beloved holiday classic, starring Benedict Cumberbatch.

Additional pupil premieres in Wales include Welsh language film *Pluen Eira*, Cannes Palme D'Or winner *Shoplifters* and British Christmas caper, *Nativity Rocks*.

There will also be bespoke events in partnership with the Epilepsy Association and Oxfam Cymru, exclusive screenings in venues such as Folly Farm, Gene Park Cymru, St Ffagans and Portmeirion village, and special talks and workshops lined up with industry experts, including Bait Studios and Magic Light Pictures.

Accessibility and inclusivity are key aims of the festival with over half of the programme offered as audio-described, subtitled or autism-friendly.

For programme information, to book tickets and download resources visit www.intofilm.org/festival.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

News and views from Nancy Davidge, Tynewydd, Llangan. 01656 860303

St Canna's Church, Llangan

A HARVEST thanksgiving service will take place on Sunday, September 23 at 11.15am

The annual autumn fair takes place on Saturday, October 16 from 10am-12.30pm with many stalls, cakes, home produce, jams and chutneys with refreshments.

The regular services take place on the second and fourth Sundays at 11.15am.

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

Life is sweet for pâtissière Alys

AWARD-winning pâtissière Alys Evans will finally make her debut for Culinary Team Wales.

Alys Evans.

The 20-year-old from Gilfach Goch, who now works for Cocorico Patisserie in Cardiff, will be heading to Luxembourg with her Welsh teammates for the Culinary World Cup in November.

Her début has been delayed as a broken leg on a skiing accident in January prevented her from representing Wales at La Parade des Chefs at the International Salon Culinaire in London in March.

The accident threatened not just her involvement with the Welsh team, but also her job and prospects of representing the UK at WorldSkills Russia in August next year.

"I was gutted," said Miss Evans, who won the VQ Learner of the Year (Intermediate) Award in 2017.

"I thought I would be out of the Wales team, the WorldSkills UK squad and I would lose my job. It was horrendous but luckily it all just managed to be ok.

"The Welsh squad was great and I have managed to catch up on all the missed practices. I just can't wait to represent Wales at the Culinary World Cup. It's really exciting as it will be my first time competing for Wales, which means everything to me.

"I have worked really hard and moved job in order to improve my patisserie skills and become better at what I am doing. To finally be part of the Welsh team and be recognised will be amazing."

Miss Evans' dedication to improving her skills involves attending Culinary Team Wales practices as well as WorldSkills UK training sessions as far away as Hull.

The selection process for the patisserie place in the UK team for Russia is now down to Miss Evans and a Hull chef, which will be decided next February.

Culinary Team Wales will again by captained by Danny Burke, co-owner of Olive Tree Catering, Hawarden. His teammates are Jason Hughes of Chateau Rhianfa, Menai Bridge, Toby Beevers of PSL Purchasing Systems, Sergio Cinotti, who runs the award-winning Gemelli Restaurant in Newport and Alun Davies, former captain of the Combined Services and RAF culinary teams who is based in Winchester.

The team begins its quest for gold medals by presenting a cold buffet display on November 25 and then competes in the hot kitchen on November 27 with an evening service.

Its hot kitchen menu includes a starter of scallops with ceviche, compressed cucumber and chicken skin granola and a main course of hay-smoked loin of Welsh Lamb with almond purée. Lamb tagine, apricots and couscous.

Pudding is white chocolate and lemon mousse with Welsh honey, raspberry sorbet, raspberry gel and mint.

AS

Keeping the entente between Llantwit and France très cordiale

HOW many people in Llantwit Major know that our town is twinned with Le Pouliguen, in France?

Until six years ago, we had a thriving twinning association which had been in existence since 1982.

Over the years a number of very good friendships were formed, not just between individuals and families but also with various sports clubs. Regular visits took place, with us visiting Le Pouliguen in the even numbered years and our friends coming here in the odd numbered years.

My wife Ann and I, along with Mrs Pat Walker, a founding member of the Twinning Association, and our Mayor, Cllr Dr David Ellis and his wife Barbara, were recently invited to Le Pouliguen for the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the twinning between Le Pouliguen and Kisslegg, in Germany.

There were also representatives from the Italian town of Fontanellato, which is twinned with Kisslegg. During our visit our friends expressed their sorrow at the demise of our twinning and asked that we try to revive it as they are keen to continue and develop the contacts between our two towns.

We were only in Le Pouliguen for a few days but I can assure all the former members of the Twinning Association that although there have been some changes in the town, the quayside is superb, the people are just as friendly as they always were, just a little bit older.

I should like to address everyone in Llantwit Major, and also Boverton, Llanmaes or any other surrounding village and ask if you might consider helping to re-form our twinning.

In one of the speeches at the official dinner during our visit, the vice-president of the Franco-German committee mentioned our twinning and described it as "sleeping". Let us get together and see if we can awaken the dragon and create more friendships.

To this end I would like to be able to contact all the sporting, cultural, leisure and educational organisations in Llantwit Major, and any individuals, to see if we can set up links between them and similar organisations in Le Pouliguen.

You really don't know what you are missing. Forget Brexit, this is friendship between two towns, families and individuals, and clubs and associations.

I can be contacted on 07969 086248.

Les Beckwith

Young people's short film season is up and running!

THE new season of short films produced by the Pencoed-based film and TV training programme 'It's My Shout' started earlier this week, and all the films will be available after transmission on iPlayer.

The scheme began 17 years ago, when Roger Burnell arranged for students from the Bridgend Youth Theatre (BYT) to make a series of short films.

Over the years, It's My Shout (IMS) has expanded and has now been embraced by BBC Wales, making it part of its training scheme for young technicians.

The result, with young actors, writers and anyone who wants to learn about the film and TV industry working alongside professionals, has been a continuous raising of standards.

The films were launched last Saturday, September 8, at St David's Hall in Cardiff, where guests included Welsh legend Dame Sian Phillips and the new Welsh star, Aneurin Barnard (a BYT and IMS regular in his youth).

The first film, 11.15pm on BBC 2 Wales on Monday, September 10, was *See Me Live* – a scary tale of social media harassment featuring a fine performance by a young actress Grace Thomas who deservedly took the award for best actress on Saturday night.

Cast: *Bex* - Grace Thomas; *Chantelle* - Katie Thomas; *Raja* - Kelly Pitts; *Susan* - Rachel Isaac; *Theo* - Joshua Howard. Writer - AJ Rafferty. Producer - Luke Walters. Director - Nan Moore.

On Tuesday, September 11 it was *Sherlock Jones* - a light-hearted piece about a young girl's fantasy life in a quiet village.

Cast: *Rhian* - Amelia Green; *Bethan* - Nerys Stocks; *Mum* - Rebecca Harries; *Dad* - Huw Williams; *Ceri* - Ashley-May Drew. Writer - Elizabeth Adlington. Producer - Luke Walters. Director - Claire Cage.

On Wednesday, September 12, it was a departure from the IMS template. With professional actors in the main roles, *Love Therapy* was co-written by Amy Stacy and Karen Paullada, who remodelled Karen's character in Ruth Jones' *Stella* as a deranged therapist with bizarre methods for helping her clients achieve their goals.

Steve Spiers, from *Stella* and many other shows, directed a clever, funny and touching screenplay that was awarded the 'best film' accolade on Saturday night.

Cast: *Katie* - Amy Stacy; *Delyth* - Karen Paullada; *Sheila* - Susan Monkton; *Tony* - John Weldon; *Steve* - Garry Knowels; *Handsome Man* - Stuart Broad; *Craig* - John Hutch. Writers - Amy Stacy and Karen Paullada. Director - Steven Spiers. Executive Producer - Roger Burnell.

Today, Thursday, September 13, again at 11.15pm, *That's What I Heard* is a film that features an almost entirely junior cast. There's a touch of the Boo Radley storyline in *To Kill a Mocking Bird* in this one.

Cast: *Ivor* - Leo Bloomfield; *Sara* - Aditi Bhor; *Mr Jones* - Anthony Corria; *Toby* - William Evans; *Grant* - Harry Morgan. Writer - John Rees. Producer - Benjamin Jenkins. Director - Michael Gilhooly.

On Friday, this time at 11.05pm on BBC 2 Wales, it's *Dad* - written by Josh McCord and based (according to the credits) on a true story. A fascinating piece, filmed in Porthcawl in a local office and inside the Grand Pavilion, it's well worth a view.

There's also a cameo from another *Stella* actor, Julian Lewis Jones.

Cast: *Young Jude* - Dylan Duffields; *Jude* - Joshua McCord; *Dad* - Julian Lewis Jones; *Mum* - Leanne Walters; *Mrs Patel* - Shakila Malik; *Sonia* - Kirsten Jones; *Sita* - Iman Rossave. Writer - Joshua McCord. Producer - Luke Walters. Director - Chris Rankin.

The last of these six films is my personal favourite, *Edgars's Hair* sponsored by Cardiff and Vale College and filmed with a predominantly young cast in a Cardiff school. It's funny, stylish and a real joy.

Writer Liam Kelly took the award for the best screenplay, but this film could well have won more awards. This one is on next Monday, September 17, at 11.15pm, again on BBC 2 Wales.

Cast: *Edgar Bootle* - Lukas Gabco; *Maggie Sparrow* - Shakira Ifill; *Jamie Cannon* - Akile James; *Mr Roberts* - Thaer Al-Shayei; *Harry* - Gideon Roberts; *Tom* - Jack Thomas. Writer - Liam Kelly. Producer - Benjamin Jenkins. Director - Gavin Porter.

The IMS scheme also made two Welsh language films, which were shown on Saturday night with subtitles. Two more excellent films, with *Nyrs Smith* featuring an incompetent burglar who finds an unexpected welcome, and *Paid Troi Nol*, which revolves around the everyday problems of a schoolgirl who has two zombies for parents!

These two are due to be premiered on S4C, at a date still to be announced. This is a bit of a shame, because I do believe they should be shown along with the other six.

All of the above titles will be available on iPlayer, and they are well worth a look, From modest beginnings 17 years ago, the It's My Shout scheme has grown into something special!

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

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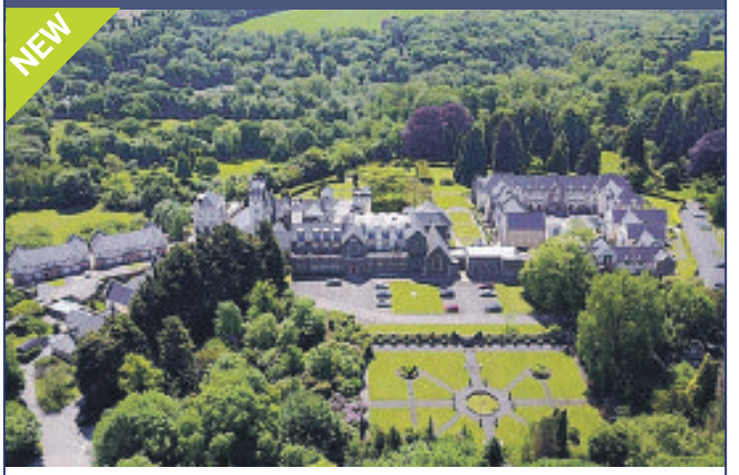

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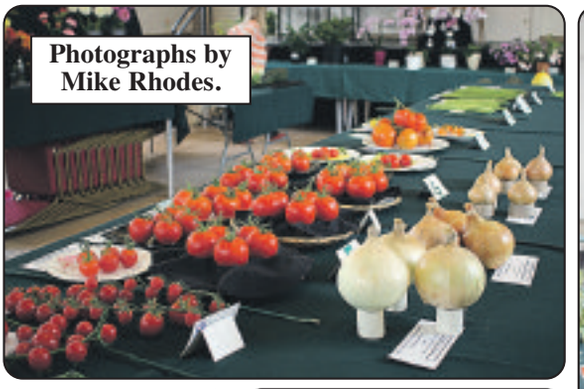
WICK HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY VEGETABLE AND FLOWER SHOW



Photographs by Mike Rhodes.

Clive Pritchard.

ABOVE: Sue Evans with her trophy.

Hermione Farmer with her trophy.

Allan Davies.

Ann Davies.

Collecting an award on behalf of Sally Fowler.

Carol Forty.

WICK Horticultural Society celebrated its 50th annual open Vegetable and Flower Show on September 1.

Visitor numbers were up a little on last year, no doubt due in part to the fine weather and special occasion.

Speaking of weather, it has been a peculiar year so far, firstly with the 'Beast from the east' bringing more snow than the Vale has seen in many a year and then the prolonged spell of unbroken sunshine that left our gardens parched and gardeners praying for rain.

As a result, there was a notable absence of some vegetables, fruit and flowers which had all finished early this year. Conversely, there was a surfeit of greenhouse crops, runner beans, beetroots and apples, with these categories very well represented. There was even a giant pumpkin that scooped first prize in the 'any other vegetable' category.

Fortunately, the baking and children's craft sections were unaffected by the weather and the judges were spoiled for choice with some very high quality entries.

The baking tables were weighed down with an impressive array of bara briths, sponges, Welsh cakes and scones, while the preserves section was also well represented with jams, marmalades and chutneys.

It was pleasing to see so many imaginative entries in the childrens section, especially so close to the beginning of the new school term. Congratulations to Hermione Farmer for winning the Children's Award with some superb entries. The winner of Best in Show this year was Sally Fowler.

Special Guest Terry Walton (star of BBC Radio 2's Jeremy Vine show) introduced the show and presented the winners' cups, as well as taking part in an impromptu question and answer session where he kindly gave some top tips for growing vegetables and keeping the pests at bay.

He stayed for the whole event and chatted with visitors making everyone feel very welcome, and commented "It was nice to see that villages are able to keep these events going".

The committee would like to thank the judges: Leigh Watkins (Vegetables and Fruit), Anne Evans (Floral and Children's) Maureen Griffin (Flowers) and Kath Mepham (Baking and Preserves) and everyone who gave their time to make this a successful event. We look forward to seeing even more entries next year.

Cup winners: Vegetables: Clive Pritchard; Collection of Vegetables: Allan Davies; Fruit: Ann Davies; Flowers: Sally Fowler; Floral Arrangement: Sue Evans; Home Baking: Carol Forty; Children's Award: Hermione Farmer; Best in Show: Sally Fowler.

Results: **Section one – Vegetables**: 1. Five Potatoes, first, Clive Pritchard; second; Clive Pritchard; third, Mike Rhodes.

Three Beetroot: first, Clive Pritchard; second, Alison Leach; third, Clive Pritchard.

Three Carrots: first and second, Clive Pritchard; third, Robbie Norris.

Three Onions under 8oz: First, Alison Leach; second, Allan Davies.

Three Onions over 8oz: First and second, Clive Pritchard.

Three Leeks: First, Allan Davies.

Five Shallots (large): First, Peter Metham.

Five Shallots (small): First, Peter Metham.

Three Parsnips: First, Clive Pritchard.

Marrow: First, Mike Rhodes; second, Allan Davies; third, Alison Leach.

Six Runner Beans: First and second, Clive Pritchard; third, Peter Metham.

Longest Runner Bean: Clive Pritchard.

Any Other Vegetable: First, Hayley Prout-Davies; second, David Davies; third, Tim Fowler.

Five Tomatoes: first, Clive Pritchard; second, Ron Ayres; third, Nicola Hallerwitts.

Cherry Tomatoes Truss: Ron Ayres.

Two Cucumbers: First, Alison Leach; second, Clive Pritchard; third, Robbie Norris.

Two Lettuces: Alison Leach.

Vegetable Collection: Allan Davies.

Fun Entry: First, Doreen Stych; second, Alison Leach, third, Mike Rhodes.

Best in vegetables: Clive Pritchard.

Best collection: Allan Davies.

Section two – fruit: Five Apples (Dessert): First, Ann Davies; second, Monty Rhodes; third, Ann Davies.

Dish of Stoned Fruit: Ann Davies.

Any Other Fruit: First, Phil Davies; second, Allan Davies; third, Ann Davies.

Best in fruit: Ann Davies.

Section three – Flowers: Bowl of Roses (10), Tony Munt.

Gladioli (3): First, Doreen Stych; second, Doreen Stych; third, Carol Forty.

Dahlias (Dec/Cactus): First, Tim Fowler; second, Clive Pritchard; third, Clive Pritchard.

Dahlias (Pom-Pom): First, Ron Ayres; second, Clive Pritchard; third, Clive Pritchard.

Vase of Mixed Flowers: First, Clive Pritchard; second, Clive Pritchard; third, Doreen Stych.

Any One Variety: First, Clive Pritchard; second, Clive Pritchard; third, Carol Forty.

Pot Plant (Foliage under 5inch): First, Doreen Stych.

Pot Plant (Foliage over 5inch): First, Clive Pritchard; second, Noelle Fee; third, Doreen Stych.

Pot Plant (Flower under 5inch): First, Sally Fowler; second, Carol Forty; third, Doreen Stych.

Pot Plant (Flower over 5inch): First, Noelle Fee.

Fuchsias (max 8 inch): First, Roger Savidge; second, Noelle Fee..

Six Kinds of Herbs: First, Clive Pritchard; second, Robbie Norris.

Succulents/Cacti: First, Richard Leach; second, Roger Savidge; third, Mike Rhodes.

Best in flowers: Sally Fowler.

Section four – Flower arrangements: Table Decoration: First, Sue Evans.

Decorative Buttonhole: First, Carol Forty; second, Carol Forty; third, Sue Evans.

Foliage Arrangement: First, Sue Evans; second, Noelle Fee

Floral Design Driftwood: First, Sue Evans.

Best in floral arrangements: Sue Evans

Section five – Home baking and preserves: "Apricot Tea Bread" Loaf Cake: First, Marie Shepherd; second, Mary Swaine; third, Sue Evans.

Five Welsh Cakes: First, Mary Morgan; second, Sue Evans.

Victoria Sandwich: First, Julie Lazenby; second, Suzanne Andrews; third, Sue Evans.

Five Shortbread Biscuits: First, Julie Ball; second, Sue Evans.

Five Fruit Scones: First, Liz Lewellyn; second, Doreen Stych; third, Carol Forty.

Five Matching Cupcakes: First: Julie Ball; second, Sue Evans.

Apple Tart: First, Carol Forty.

Savoury Flan or Quiche: First, Carol Forty; second, Doreen Stych; third, Julie Ball.

Jar of Jam: First, Julie Ball.

Jar of Jelly: First, Mary Morgan; second, Robbie Norris; third, Dorothy Pritchard.

Jar of Fruit Marmalade: First, Robbie Norris; second, Dorothy Pritchard; third, Winnie Davies.

Jar of Savoury Preserve: First, Mary Morgan.

Best in home baking and preserves: Carol Forty.

Section six – Children's section: Decorated Egg: First, Monty Rhodes; second, Olivia Ball; third, Catrin Jones; HC, Catrin Jones.

Decorated 3 Plain Biscuits: First, Catrin Jones; second, Natasha Forty; third, Natasha Forty; HC, Mabel Weber.

Miniature Garden in Tray: First, Hermione Farmer; second, Olivia Ball; third, Monty Rhodes; HC, Natasha Forty.

Vegetable Animal: first, Hermione Farmer; second, Catrin Jones; third, Olivia Ball; HC, Monty Rhodes.

Painting of a Sunflower: First, Olivia Ball; second, Catrin Jones; third, Monty Rhodes; HC, Natasha Forty.

Hand-made 50th Anniversary Card: First, Olivia Ball; second, Catrin Jones; third, Natasha Forty; HC, Natasha Forty.

Collage of Seeds and Leaves: First, Hermione Farmer; second, Monty Rhodes; third, Olivia Ball.

Best in children's section – Olivia Ball

Trophies: Best exhibit –Vegetables: Clive Pritchard; Best exhibit – Collection of vegetables: Allan Davies; Best Exhibit – Fruit: Ann Davies; Best Exhibit – Flowers: Sally Fowler; Best Exhibit – Floral Arrangement, Sue Evans; Best exhibit – Home Baking: Carol Forty; Best Exhibit – Children's Section: Hermione Farmer; Best Exhibit in Show: Sally Fowler.

Report and photographs by Mike Rhodes

Good results for Athletic's seconds and youth teams

FOLLOWING a successful first season campaign in the WRU Conference, Bridgend Athletic second XV embarked on a second season with a visit to Ammanford.

An excellent team performance saw them come away with a bonus point, 32-10 win, outscoring their rivals by five tries to one.

Early pressure saw hooker Lewis Down and centre Nick Jones combine before Jones was bundled into touch just short of the try line. Centres Rhys Ward Jones and Nick Jones combined before Nick Jones put in a grubber kick behind the defence which flanker Hywel Cosby latched on to for the opening try.

Amanford responded and their pressure was rewarded with a converted try from a driving line out to lead 7-5.

The Athletic applied pressure and momentum from runs by wing Josh Seldon and full back Liam Phillips led to outside half Scott Jones chipping ahead for wing Ryan Pickford to gather and pass inside to centre Nick Jones to cross. Scott Jones converted.

An Ammanford penalty reduced the Athletic lead to 12-10 at half-time.

The Athletic upped the pace in the second half. Strong ball carrying from props Andrew Brown and Lewis Dando and locks Carl Towzer and Ellis James allowed scrum half Joe Symons and outside half Scott Jones to combine for Jones to win the race to touch down from a kick ahead.

Ammanford tried to respond using their large pack but sound defence from the back row of Geraint Lang, Owain Leyshon and Hywel Cosby and man of the match hooker Lewis Down nullified the threat. Scott Jones then kicked an Athletic penalty.

Sustained pressure from the Athletic forwards and backs created numbers out wide for wing Ryan Pickford to cross uncontested from 30 metres out for the Athletic's bonus point try.

The Athletic brought on replacements Alex Borley, Lloyd Pemberton and Liam Griffiths. No 8 Geraint Lang picked up from a scrum and made ground before offloading to Liam Griffiths for the final try. Scott Jones' conversion added icing on the cake in an excellent 32-10 win.

By competing in the Welsh Conference, the Athletic second XV have access to playing in the National Bowl Cup Competition for teams in National League Division 3.

This Saturday, September 15, they cross the River Ewenny to contest the first round of the Bowl against Bridgend Sports' first XV.

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC YOUTH 24, ABERAVON GREEN STARS 8

On the back of a preseason 50-0 win away at Risca, Bridgend Athletic Youth made a sound bonus point start to their Ospreys East Division campaign, outscoring Aberavon Green Stars by four tries to one in a hard fought 24-8 victory.

The first 15 minutes were a stalemate before the Athletic broke the deadlock with a try from wing Owen Thomas.

The Green Stars responded with a try to level the scores at 5-5 at half-time.

Unfortunately, the game was not allowed to flow as the referee was too keen on his whistle, especially at the ruck, penalising both sides, which disrupted and frustrated both sides.

In the second half the Athletic started to gel. Half backs Josh Tidy and especially the experienced outside half Matthew Hobby started to dictate play.

Hobby got his back line moving smoothly and flanker Sion Vigus, supporting a backs move, crossed for a try.

The Stars kicked a penalty, then third year youth centre Levi Hallet, showing his experience, combined well with co-centre Dan Osigirie to cross for two further tries, including the bonus point try. Hobby converted both.

The victory will give the Ath youth confidence for their league campaign, when they visit Nantymoel this coming Saturday, September 15.

AB

Bridgend Athletic mini and junior section round-up

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC age groups 7-12 faced strong challenges against Beddau opposition and all teams performed well.

The under-13s won at Treorchy and the under-14s were successful at Newbridge Fields against Nantyfyllon.

The under-7s travelled to Beddau for their second game of the season. With both Beddau and Bridgend Athletic fielding two teams each, a total of four games were played with the Athletic outscoring Beddau 32 tries to 22.

Sunday saw the under-8s also take the short trip East to be hosted by Beddau RFC. Both clubs' strong squad numbers enabled each to field three teams, playing a total of nine matches.

The Ath expected a challenging run-out, as Beddau always posed stiff opposition at under-7s and there were a lot of familiar faces in the Beddau line-up.

The matches didn't disappoint, with a lot of entertaining rugby being played by both clubs, which was appreciated by both the home and travelling support.

The under-8s gave a very good account of themselves, at times putting their bodies on the line to neutralise some of the Beddau offensive onslaughts.

The encounter proved a tough day at the office for the youngsters but despite the strong opposition they came away with four wins, two draws and three losses.

The under-9s played Beddau and once again as previous meetings were given a tough game. Beddau got off to the better start in the first half with some questionable Ath tackling and tactics trying to take the ball up the middle.

Beddau led at half-time five tries to one. The second half saw the Athletic make 10 changes which saw a real turn round in the game as the Athletic never took a backward step and started spreading the ball wide outscoring Beddau 6-2 with the overall result finishing 7-7.

The under-10s travelled to Beddau RFC in a confident mood after a good week of training and began the match the stronger of the two teams.

From the start the forwards were on the front foot and cleared out well to allow the backs to move the ball out and score in the corner.

This set the tone for the first third with the Ath out scoring Beddau by three tries to two.

In the second third, Beddau came out stronger and quickly scored two good tries to go 4-3 up. The Ath upped the intensity and managed to free Jackson Mutlow close to their own line. Mutlow found a gap and darted through to run almost the length of the pitch to score a fine try.

Soon after though some poor defence from the Ath saw Beddau go over again and finish the third 5-4 up.

The final third started with the ever-reliable Oliver Williams, who again had an outstanding performance, forcing his way through a couple of tackles to run half the pitch and score in the corner.

Unfortunately, the Ath seemed to step off the gas after this and allowed Beddau to move the ball around and win the ruck area too easily. Beddau's hard work was rewarded with two excellent tries to run out 7-5 victors in a great game of rugby by both sides.

The Ath try scorers on the day were Oliver Williams (2), Jackson Mutlow (2) and Albert Periclie.

The under-11s, with a bare bones squad of 12 including Jackson Mutlow from the under-10s, visited Beddau.

Beddau kicked off regathered and crossed for a lightning-quick try. The Ath composed themselves and showing great discipline in defence and attack crossed for four first half tries to one further Beddau try in a very high-tempo opening half.

During half-time the coaches adjusted the playing tactics and all 12 youngsters were fired up for the second half. The Ath capitalised on Beddau's indiscipline and scored a further four second half tries.

Well done to the boys showing a very mature attitude towards the game to outscore the home team by eight tries to two.

Special thanks to Edward Brown for a fantastic refereeing display during an away game.

The under-12s, having strongly recruited pre-season, travelled to Beddau for the first away game of the season for the new-look team, expecting a stern test from an experienced and established team.

The first half was dominated by strong defences, with neither side seemingly able to break them down, until Beddau scored an unconverted try two minutes before the break, despite some ferocious tackling on the try line.

The Athletic felt frustrated that despite good forward work allowing the backs to express themselves the team were undone by decisions going against them, which were exploited by the home side gaining two more tries.

Despite the final 17-0 scoreline, the Athletic coaches were very pleased with the commitment, attitude and potential of the of the team moving in the right direction this season.

The under-13s travelled to Treorchy looking to gain their first win of the season. In damp conditions the game was stop-start. The first half was back and forth with the Ath taking a 14-7 lead.

The second half saw the Ath playing with better consistency but conceded the first try of the half with Treorchy forcing their way over from short range to reduce their deficit to 14-12.

The Ath responded to regain the lead with a well taken try making it 21-12. The final play of the match nearly resulted in the try of the match only for the supporting player to be adjudged to have knocked on in the act of scoring.

The Ath tries were scored by Rhys Hockings (2) and Leo Quinn with Charlie Rees converting all three tries.

The under-14s were home to local rivals Nantyfyllon. As usual it was a game of contrasts with Nanty's strong pack pitting itself against an expansive Athletic approach.

Nantyfyllon started strongly, mauling the ball well and dominating possession. They scored the opening try from a close-range drive.

From the restart a loose Nanty kick saw the Ath respond immediately picking up the ball to equalise. This score was followed by two more tries for the Ath capitalising on breakdowns of play in the Nanty midfield.

The Ath were now more fluent, winning some good ball and working powerful wing Sam Barraclough down the left to score their fourth try, to lead 26-5.

Nantyfyllon kept plugging away and were justly awarded a second try. However, almost straight away they conceded another Ath try for a 31-12 half-time score.

Nanty started the second half strongly with their pack making good ground and from a lineout they got themselves back in the game with a try for a score line of 31-17.

The Ath were now under considerable pressure, but still looking for opportunities and against the run of play turned over the ball in midfield and moved it quickly left for a sharp try for their wing.

Nantyfyllon utilised all of their forward dominance in scoring the next try, but having worked themselves back into contention, then let in a try after a loose kick went straight to the Ath backs.

Nantyfyllon had the final say with another forward drive over the whitewash, but it was all too little too late as a really hard contest had ended with the Ath running out 45-27 winners.

This was a full-blooded game between two very different but committed teams. It was always physical but never with any acrimony on the pitch.

For the Ath, wingers Josh Stephens and Sam Barraclough were a real threat, while Jack Whitten looked very slick in midfield alongside hard-tackling Bailey John.

AB

Bridgend Sports mini and junior news

THE Bridgend Sports mini and junior rugby season has started with some great performances from all sides.

The first week of the season saw the club field sides from under-7s through to under-16s. It is great to see so many young players enjoying playing the game in the town.

This week most of the mini teams were away with the under-12s, under-13s and under-15s at home.

The under-8s were very industrious in their game as they clocked up an impressive 97 tags and 18 tries in a round robin with Valley Ravens and Tondu at Ogmore Vale.

The coaches set the key themes of the day which were passing and off-loading with teamwork. The side did not disappoint as the side competed well in all games to produce some credible results.

Scores were: Valley Raven 5, Bridgend Sports red team 2; Tondu 7, Bridgend Sports blue team 4; Valley Ravens 9, Bridgend Sports blue team 5; Tondu 2, Bridgend Sports red team 7.

There were some stand-out performances from Holly and Aaron Eynon for their evasive play and determination, Seb Stowe for an improved performance and Oscar Gee for his overall achievements.

The under-9s faced a tough morning at Bryncethin where they put in a brave performance with great effort as they make the tough transition from tag to contact and tackling.

They scored four tries with Rhys Evans, Rhodri Owen and Dan Perriman all getting on the scoresheet. Other notable performances were put in by tackler of the week Rafferty Williams and star player Thomas Roberts.

The final score was Bryncethin 60, Bridgend Sports 20.

Fresh from last week's victory over our neighbours, the under-10s travelled to Llantwit Fardre for a great morning of rugby. The hosts were able to field two teams so the Sports played both!

Over the two games the 14-player travelling squad played some excellent rugby with good ball handling, committed tackling and great rucking.

Their defence was fantastic as they put immense pressure on a good Llantwit Fardre team through some excellent work at the ruck to recycle ball.

The Sports emerged on top in the opening game as they registered a 35-15 win with tries from Leo Giraud (3), Noah Roberts (2), Lennon Griffiths and Osian Stephens.

They also won the second game 30-5 with tries from Leo Giraud (2), Noah Roberts (2), Gethin Evans and Billy Carpenter-Davies.

The under-11s battled out at excellent 35-35 draw with Bryncethin. Both teams rucked, tackled and played some fantastic rugby.

Try scorers were spread around the team with Dylan Evans, Chloe Roblin, Gabrial Burroughs, Matthew Oglesbee, Joe Perriman and two from Charlie Paget.

This week's star player of the week was Finley Goodwin, who carried on from last week with awesome jackaling and rucking. It was only his second game for the Sports and he has settled in well with the squad.

The under-12s also continued their excellent start to the season as they had too much power and pace for a spirited Baglan side who never gave up and in the true Sports tradition, the team retained complete respect for their opponents.

The under-13s have also won both their opening fixtures of the season. Last week they defeated Fairwater away winning 31-7 and this week they went one better, defeating Treharris 50-12 at Newbridge Fields.

The Sports scored eight tries through Connor Jones (4) Cian John (2) Iestyn John and Tom Chick, with Ieuan Pilliner slotting over five conversions.

The under-14s are rebuilding and missed this week's games but will continue to ensure as many players as possible have access to game time each week.

The under-15s played out a thriller against a quick CRICC side. The Sports had the better of the second half and came close to a well-deserved draw but the game ended 25-32, with tries from Charlie Tomalin Reeves, Rhys Vaughan (3) and Khadier Mader.

The Sports, with their philosophy of game time rugby and development for all, are keen to recruit across all age groups.

Training is every Wednesday from 6pm at the Bandstand Field, Newbridge Fields behind the Recreation Centre.

The club is entering its 80th year and with the support of major sponsors Knights Brown, Jehu and the Stephenson Group, all sides have new kit this season in the traditional blue and white of Bridgend.

SP

Bridgend Bridge Club round-up

HERE are the latest results for Bridgend Bridge Club:

The summer competition was played over five weeks in August: First, Irene Thomas; second, Linda Pinnock; third, Bill Turner.

The Welsh Bridge Union Autumn Simultaneous Pairs was played on September 5: First, Graham Jones and Irene Thomas; second, Irene Wickham and Glyn Williams; third, Tony Disley and John Evans. Graham Jones and Irene Thomas were the winners on handicap and were also third in the overall competition.

On September 6: First, Dee Finch and Leila O'Hagan; second, Stewart Norton and Ivor Hicks; third, Chris Rawlings and Joan Ralph. The winners on handicap were Dee Finch and Leila O'Hagan.

On September 7: First, Emer Disley and Bill Turner; second, Dave Reed and Jim Hume; third, Maggie Ashpole and Ann Fox. The winners on handicap were Dave Reed and Jim Hume.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall at 7pm.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, there is a gentle bridge session when help is available with the bidding. All sessions are played in a friendly manner, visitors and new members are always welcome.

On Thursdays at 1pm, a session takes place on advanced topics and this week, Steve Burgoyne will present a seminar on hand evaluation and when to take out trumps.

Lessons for beginners has started on Monday afternoons from 3.30pm to 5.30pm.

For more information, contact Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968 or email steve@steveburgoyne. plus.com.

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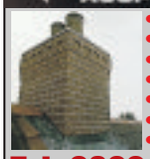

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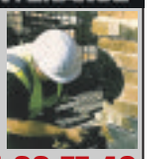

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Family Notices

BEER
Suzanne Jeanette

Susie Beer passed away peacefully on 18th August at Holme Towers Hospice, Penarth. Beloved wife of David. A much-loved mum, nana and a good friend to so many.

Funeral Thursday, 20th September. Service at St Michaels Church, Llanmihangel, CF71 7LQ at 12 noon, followed by interment in graveyard. Family request casual dress and no black. Flowers are welcome if desired or donations in lieu may be made to Holme Towers Hospice, Penarth c/o Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services, 2 Hilda House, The Square, Pencoed, Bridgend, CF35 5NP, Tel: 01656 860545.

NEWBY
Lesley Adrian Ian

Peacefully at Morriston Hospital, Swansea on 1st September. Les, dearly loved husband of the late Maureen, father of Shaun and Nick, much loved grandfather to Laoise, Seren, Jack and Sam.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday, 14th September, service and cemation 10.30am at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations, if desired, to Y Bwthyn Newydd, Bridgend c/o the funeral director.

CHIVERS
Elizabeth Gwenllian

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on Friday, 31st August. Betty, dearly loved wife of the late Reg, loving mother of Lynne and son-in-law Allan. Grandmother and great grandmother to Daniel and Oshan.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday, 21st September, service 2pm at St Illtyds Church, Llantwit Major, followed by cremation 3.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Welsh Hearts, c/o the funeral director.

STEWART
Margaret Jean (Jean)
(née Grattadge)

Sadly at home on 4th September 2018, Jean, aged 76 years. Beloved sister of Annette, Derek and Christopher. Loved aunt to Emma and Vicki, also great aunt of Eleri.

Jean will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service in the Chapel of Rest on Friday, 21st September at 9.30am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

KERSLAKE
Reg

Peacefully on 5th September 2018 at the University Hospital of Wales, aged 88 years. Loving husband to the late Evelyn, much loved and respected dad to Joan and Ruth, father-in-law to Jon and Matt. Proud grandad to Lucas, Scott, Freya and Ella. Big brother to Gerald and the late Ron.

Reg will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting at Park Funeral Directors, Barry until the service on Friday, 21st September at 11am at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry, followed by light refreshments at Barry Town United Football Club. All welcome.

DAVIES
John Roger

Peacefully on 5th September, in hospital, Roger of Mill Park, Cowbridge. Beloved husband of Ainslie, loving father of Martin and Louise, respected father-in-law of Simon, much loved Datcu of Jacob, Aled and Deio. Dearest brother of Jane and a dear uncle of his nieces and nephews.

Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

A private funeral service will take place prior to a memorial service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Friday, 14th September at 12 noon.

Donations, in lieu of flowers, if so desired for Velindre Specialist Nurses Fund (cheques made payable to Velindre Fundraising) c/o W.H. Preene & Son, Mwyndy, Pontyclun, CF72 8PN. (Tel 01443 223368)

STEPHENS
Teresa

Sadly passed peacefully at UHW on Tuesday, 4th September, surrounded by her loving family. A beloved wife, mother, sister and grandmother.

Teresa will be resting at Park Funeral Directors until the service at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium on Tuesday, 18th September at 1pm.

Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu of flowers, if desired, to MIND.

SVENDSEN
Fred

25/05/1936 - 05/09/2018

In loving memory of Fred Svendsen who sadly passed away on 5th September 2018. Loving husband to Barbara, father to Kim, Karen and Philip, grandfather to Gareth, Lewis, Samantha, Samuel and Hannah. Father-in-law to Ed, good friend to Keith.

Service to take place at Barry crematorium on 20th September 2018 at 1pm.

No flowers, donations to Wales Air Ambulance 0300 0152 999.

In Memory

IN MEMORY
JONES
Terry

14th September 2016

Dad you are gone but not forgotten,
Your memory lives on.

Missing your smile and sense of fun.
Your loving daughters Kath & Helen *xxx*

BURGE
Grace

Birthday Memories.
14th September.
We miss you every day, especially on a Sunday.
From your loving family.
xxx

BIRTHDAY MEMORY
SVENDSEN
George (Bob)

We might not have seen you as often as we wanted, We might not have been at your side in your last hours,
I know you are having fun with Eric and that you know how much you meant to us,
You have always been in our minds and in our thoughts.
Special memories will be with us on your birthday on 12th September.

Love Valerie and family xxx

BIRTHDAY MEMORY
SLOMAN
Thomas

30th Birthday Wishes on Wednesday, 12th September

Show the heavens how to have a hell of a party.
Miss you immensely,
the Sloman family *xxx*

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Acknowledgements

ALLEN
David

Jean, Stephen, Martyn and their families would like to thank everyone who attended David's funeral.

Our grateful thanks to all who visited Jean, sent comforting cards, beautiful flowers and friendly phone calls. Rev Roy Watson for his uplifting service and Mr Brian Ashmead, organist, for playing David's choice of hymns and music.
Also, Mr Lindsay Ellis and his team for their calm and professional manner at all times when organising David's funeral. Our thanks again to all who gave donations for Ty Hapus Day Care and Ty Hafan in memory of David, all very much appreciated.

Thank You

Thank you
Mavis Austin

I would like to thank my wonderful family and friends for all my cards, lovely presents and for the wonderful party for my Special Birthday.
God Bless You All.
Lots of Love, Mavis xxxx

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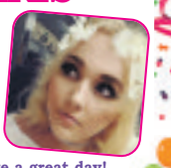
Birthdays

JAMIE-LEIGH MORRIS



Happy 21st Birthday
16.09.18

Hope you have a great day!
Love you loads, Nan, Mum, Ratna & Nathan xxx

Happy 60th Birthday
DAD
on 9th September

Lots of Love
Helen, Bam, Steve & Dean
xxxx

HAPPY 7TH BIRTHDAY
WILL HEAVEN
ON 15TH SEPTEMBER

Love from
Nanny and Bampi Baker xx

Situations Vacant

vacancy

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Our cashiers need to possess good communication/interpersonal skills, diplomacy and tact as they will be dealing directly with the Society's customers and introducers, providing them with both cashiering and administrative services.

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Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Listed Building Consent/
Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2018/00183/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Internal renovation and remodelling of commercial premises and second storey apartment
Location:/Lleoliad: 1, Westgate, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2018/00921/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Alterations of part of roof from stone tiles to natural slate
Location:/Lleoliad: Penllyn Castle, Penllyn
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2018/00966/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of single storey lean to and replacement with a single storey extension
Location:/Lleoliad: The Old Barn, Caer Wigau Isaf, Pendoylan Road, Pendoylan
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2018/00988/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Conversion and minor alteration of existing garage into 1no. 2 bedroom dwelling, conversion and alteration of 2no. existing external store rooms within the Old Dairy into 1no. bedroom and en suite and reinstatement of missing boathouse construction atop existing stone plinth / base walls
Location:/Lleoliad: Cwrt Yr Ala House, Michaelston Le Pit, Dinas Powys
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest/
Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2018/00963/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission 2015/00859/FUL to extend the timeframe of the development from 25 years (as approved) to 30 years
Location:/Lleoliad: Corntown Farm, Corntown

May affect a Public Right of Way/
Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2018/00963/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission 2015/00859/FUL to extend the timeframe of the development from 25 years (as approved) to 30 years
Location:/Lleoliad: Corntown Farm, Corntown

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 13 September, 2018

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager,
Regeneration and Planning,
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Rhoose Lifeguards impress at lifesaving championships

AT this year's Welsh Surf Lifesaving Championships held at Coney Beach, Porthcawl, Rhoose Lifeguards achieved third place, out of a total number of 15 teams contesting the overall aggregate.

This was a great achievement with only two senior male competitors and no senior females, and was due to the outstanding results achieved by the youth and master competitors.

The Youth finished in third place in their category and the Masters took second place in theirs.

The first day of competition started with board races, seeing the first success for Rhoose.

Xantia Hobrough, with Gwennor Goode in the bronze position, won the under-13 girls' gold medal. Evie Wong won the under-15 girls' bronze.

In the Masters race, Sian Laycock took bronze in the over-40 race, with Karen O'Donoghue-Harris taking gold in the over-50 race, and Karen Hopkin taking the silver.

In the Masters Surf Swim event, Sian Laycock took silver in the over-40's and the over-50's gold was won by Karen Hopkin. Karen O'Donoghue-Harris took gold in the over-50's Ocean Woman, with Karen Hopkin taking the silver.

The final sea event on day one was the Ski relays. The boys' Youth team of Ethan Wall, Jai Gerrish and Ollie Wong won silver and the Master Ladies 87+ team of Melissa Downton, Lisa Sullivan and Sian Laycock took gold. The 117+ Master Ladies' team of Karen O'Donoghue-Harris, Liz Wong and Karen Hopkin also won a gold medal.

It was onto the beach for the rest of the first day of competition where more success followed.

Evie Watkins took gold in the under-13 Sprint with Xantia Hobrough taking silver.

There was a gold medal for Evie Wong in the under-15 Sprint and the Masters kept up the good work with Ceri Cole winning gold in the over-40s and Natalie Gibson taking silver. In the over-50s Karen O'Donoghue-Harris picked up another gold, with Julie Hewitson in bronze position.

The Beach Relays followed with the Rhoose team of Evie Wong, Moli Lyons, Finn Sullivan and Sam Jenkins winning bronze in the under-15 Relay and the Ladies' Masters team of Melissa Downton, Natalie Gibson and Lisa Sullivan taking gold.

The Masters Men's team of Jamie Phillips, Steve Llewellyn and Jon Martlew took a silver.

The final event of the first day was Beach Flags and Rhoose gained some more impressive results.

In the under-13 girls Xantia Hobrough took silver. Evie Wong took the gold medal in the under-15 girls, with Ollie Wong taking silver in the under-17 boys' event.

In the over-40 ladies, Ceri Cole took gold and Natalie Gibson took

bronze. In the over-50's Karen O'Donoghue-Harris continued her dominance with another gold medal winning performance, Julie Hewitson took bronze.

On the second day of competition, the 1K Beach Run started well with Evie Watkins winning gold in the under-13 girls' race and Gwenno Goode taking the silver medal. The under-15 girls' race was won by Moli Lyons. Jason Grice took bronze in the Open Mens race, with Jon Martlew winning bronze in the over-30 Men's Masters event. Ceri Cole took silver in the Ladies over-40s.

Board and Tube Rescues followed the Beach Runs and the Rhoose pair of Xantia Hobrough and Elena Gibson won the silver medal in the under-13 girls' tube. Ollie Wong and Ethan Wall took bronze in the under-17 boys' tube. Ollie joined forces with Jason Grice in the Open Men's Board Rescue and they won a silver medal.

Next up were the Single and Double Ski races with more medals for Rhoose. In the under-17 boys' Single Ski, Ethan Wall won silver and Ollie Wong took the bronze. Jason Grice won silver in the Men's Open and Karen O'Donoghue-Harris won another gold in the Masters over-50s.

The double ski pairing of Evie Wong and Kiera Harris won a well-deserved gold in the under-15 girls and Jai Gerrish and Sam Jenkins took silver in the boys' event. In the boys' under-17, the pairing of Ollie Wong and Ethan Wall easily won gold.

Jason Grice and Jack Giddings took silver in the Men's race. The Masters were not to be outdone, with Melissa Downton and Karen Hopkin taking the gold in the 58+ double ski and Karen O'Donoghue-Harris and Liz Wong winning the gold in the 78+ double.

The final events were Board and Taplin Relays with medals coming in the Men's Open, with the team of Jack Giddings, Jason Grice and Ollie Wong taking bronze in the Board Relay. In the Master Ladies, the 87+ teaming of Liz Wong, Natalie Gibson and Lisa Sullivan won gold and in the 117+, the team of Karen O'Donoghue-Harris, Sian Laycock and Karen Hopkin won gold. In the Master Men's 87+, Stuart Wong, Jon Martlew and Damon Gibson took the bronze medal.

The Taplin Relay (which consists of a board, swim and ski leg) found Rhoose taking more success with a gold medal in the Ladies' 87+ coming from Melissa Downton, Karen Hopkin and Natalie Gibson and in the 117+, another gold for the team of Sian Laycock, Liz Wong and Karen O'Donoghue-Harris.

Team manager Karen O'Donoghue-Harris said it was a brilliant team performance from all involved, not just the medal winners but also all the Rhoose competitors who took part, gaining valuable points for the club which contributed to the overall third place success. **JH**

Andy clinches his first 'major'

THE second finals day at Wenvoe Castle is reserved for players who have reached two finals and would be unfair to have to play them both on the same day.

Terry O'Grady's fine performance in the club championship just failed to clinch the title but there was a second opportunity to win the Rickards Trophy, which is recognised as being the toughest men's competition to win.

The competition is a singles handicap knockout with a huge entry and the first round commencing in early May. The lower handicap golfers have to concede strokes with full handicap difference and it is a testament of consistency and skill to get through to the final.

Terry's challenge was to concede three strokes to another low handicapper Andy Evans who was determined to win his first major singles trophy.

The White Cup foursomes presentation.

The Rickards Trophy finalists at the first tee.

The weather conditions were kind albeit slightly breezy and it was Andy who made the first move using his strokes to build up a four hole lead on the front nine.

In a match of considerable skill from both players Terry managed to stem the flow but couldn't make inroads into Andy's commanding lead and his opponent proved a worthy winner.

Referee was club vice-captain Lesley Sherrard, who had nothing but praise for both players and the sportsmanship throughout the match.

One other final was held over to the second week and Dee Lloyd was seeking to add another trophy to the ladies bronze championship title won the previous Sunday.

Dee was partnered with the new ladies champion Sian Smith in the White Cup Foursomes final against Jane Lott and Sue Dayanandar.

The match followed a similar pattern in that Jane and Sue built up a strong lead and were four holes up at the turn which proved to be an unassailable lead and they ran out worthy winners.

Match referee was Marilyn Davies who praised both sides for an excellent and sporting match. The lady captain Sheila Morrow presented the White Cup to the winners and also congratulated them on their fine performance.

September sees the finish of the main golfing season but there is much more golf to be played throughout the winter months.

The very popular Winter League starts in early October and runs through until March when the finals are played.

BJ

Mini championships at Barry tennis club

BARRY Community Tennis Club hosted its mini tennis club championships last weekend, and witnessed a feast of tennis from children from ages five-11-years-old, many of whom enjoyed their first taste of formal competition.

Older or more experienced children competed with orange balls on a smaller court and enjoyed both singles and doubles matches, while younger children competed in both singles and doubles matches on mini tennis courts.

Families observed from the surrounding grassy banks which have become affectionately known as 'Penny's Patch', named after club coach Penny Mickelsen in a nod to Wimbledon's famous Henman Hill.

The winners were: 11u girls singles: Grace Mickelsen (age 10, Barry Island Primary School); 11u boys singles: Sam Jones (age 9, Gwenfo Primary School); 11u doubles: Grace Mickelsen (age 10, Barry Island Primary School) and Poppy Williams (age 11, St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School; 8u girls singles: Julia Papierowska (age 8, St Helen's Catholic Primary School); 8u boys singles: Ethan Ashburner (age 7, Romilly Primary School); 8u girls doubles: Julia Papierowska (age 8, St Helen's Catholic Primary School) & Marta Szymanowicz (age 8, St Helen's Catholic Primary School); 8u boys doubles: Ethan Ashburner (age 7, Romilly Primary School) & Osian Cane (age 7, Ysgol Gwaun y Nant).

All players were presented with medals, and trophies will be presented to the winners at the club presentation evening on Friday, September 14, where winners of the junior and adult club championships will also be recognised.

PM

Five goals for Barry ladies as they win at Jenner Park

BARRY Town Ladies went into their second match of the season on Sunday, returning to Jenner Park for what was billed as a crunch league fixture against fellow promotion hopefuls Cascade YC.

Following a good start to the season with a 3-1 win at Merthyr the previous weekend, the Vale-based club knew they would face a sterner test of their league credentials against an opponent that finished just two points behind Barry last season.

The game kicked off at a frantic pace and the home side took the lead after just two minutes when a through ball found new signing Daisy Evan-Watkins, who raced through the visitors' defence before placing the ball into the corner to give the hosts a dream start.

However their lead was shortlived as straight from the kick off Cascade responded.

A lapse in concentration at the back resulted in Cascade similarly playing a through ball for the on rushing forward to slot home past goalkeeper Erin Brennan to make it 1-1 after just three minutes.

Just four minutes later a third goal arrived. Midfielder Ellen Phillips won a free kick 30 yards from goal and up stepped captain Charlotte Preen with a trademark effort that lobbed the Cascade goalkeeper to make it 2-1 to the home side.

Barry started to take a real stranglehold of the game, looking confident in possession in all areas of the pitch with the pace of Chelsea Deacon and Evan-Watkins causing havoc against a high defensive line.

Evan-Watkins spurned a great chance to grab a third from Barry when put through on goal but she was denied by an excellent save from the Cascade goalkeeper.

Deacon also went close with an effort that was thwarted by another fine save low down. Phillips also had a goal disallowed for offside a Barry as the home side continued to look for a decisive third goal.

The score remained 2-1 at half-time with the only negative from Barry's perspective was the fact they were not out of site given some great opportunities.

The second half also started at a fast pace with Barry still enjoying the vast majority of possession but the visitors always looked a threat on the counter.

The home side's pressure eventually told when on 52 minutes, Phillips reacted quickly in the box to give Barry the cushion they had been searching for.

Evan-Watkins, making her first home start for her new club, put the game to bed on 64 minutes when she raced onto a through ball and this time made no mistake, firing past the goalkeeper to make it 4-1, three goals in two games for the striker making an impressive start for the Town.

Preen and Tracey White were the architects of most of Barry's excellent build-up play with the energetic Deacon and Phillips linking up well in the attacking half of the pitch.

Defensively, Alex Allen was a colossus making numerous key headers and block tackles along with Emma Thompson and Chloe Clarke. Olivia Townsend and Alicia Cox were also putting in excellent shifts in wide areas.

As the half wore on Barry made a number of changes with Emma Cannon replacing Evan-Watkins, Taylor Page replacing Chloe Clarke and the returning Sian Rees came on for Phillips.

Rees, making her senior debut, took just 10 minutes to make an impact with a superb individual goal when she nonchalantly hit a left foot shot from the edge of the penalty area, looping the ball over the goalkeeper.

To their credit, Cascade showed great desire throughout the game and did manage a late consolation goal to make the final score 5-2 to the home side.

After the game, manager Luke Williams commented: "We are really pleased with the performance against a strong Cascade team.

"We put together some excellent passages of play, creating many opportunities and scored five goals but it was also pleasing to see the battling qualities and determination in what was an important game early in the season."

A deserved win for Barry who now travel to Aberystwyth on Sunday, September 16 for another big league game.

LW

Barry and District mens skittles league results

DIVISION 1:

Geest 285 (D Ashill 28), 49ers 303 (J Gee 31); Bunker Boys 262 (S Jeynes, S Western 28), British Rail 264 (B Smith 29); KP Rejects 266 (J Barrett 28), Willie Wombles 290 (D Richardson 29); Blue Monkey 262 (J Stokes 30), Sea View 269 (D Morgan 26); Posties 301 (M Chruchill 33), Cannon Balls 248 (M Almedia 30); Billy Whizz 300 (C Alldred 33), Merrymen 274 (E Jones, R Bilton 27).

League table: Posties 2, Billy Whizz 2, Willie Wombles 2, 49ers 2, Sea View 2, British Rail 2, Geest 0, Blue Monkey 0, Bunker Boys 0, KP Rejects 0, Merrymen 0, Cannon Balls 0.

DIVISION 2:

BP Breakaways 264 (J Gee, E Lovell, R Bowman, M Rees 25), Exiles 281 (D Norris 32); Mighty Dockers 256 (P Burroughes 27), Ex Servicemen 248 (D Wickham, R Harrington 24); H Bells 282 (C White 30), Hairy Lemons 285 (R Ryles 31); Park Lads 267 (N Watkins 28), Colcot Boys 251 (B Sullivan 28); Tynny Lads 290 (S Germon 33), Witchill Poachers 279 (R Connell 31); Cavaliers 297 (M Morris 36), Barry Park B 256 (N Bowen 29).

League table: Cavaliers 2, Exiles 2, Tynny Lads 2, Park Lads 2, Mighty Dockers 2, Hairy Lemons 2, H Bells 0, Witchill Poachers 0, Colcot Boys 0, Ex Servicemen 0, BP Breakaways 0, Barry Park B 0.

DIVISION 3:

Cocoa Nuts 257 (S Evans 26), C.U.D. 249 (G Sheppard 29); Castle Boys 244 (N Hughes 28), Alternatives 219 (A Harris 29); Witchill Nomads 350 (S Grant 35), Billy Bluebirds 327 (J Marshall 36); Master Mariner 204 (B Louch 21), Royalists 207 (G Evans 26); Park Rangers 271 (S Dite 30), Abercrete 251 (P Fifield, D Selby 27).

League table: Park Rangers 2, Castle Boys 2, Witchill Nomads 2, Royalists 2, Cocoa Nuts 2, C.U.D. 0, Billy Bluebirds 0, Abercrete 0, Alternatives 0, Master Mariner 0, Glenbrook Flyers 0.

View all results and league tables at www.barryleagues.co.uk.

JW

Sea View Lads celebrate 40 angling anniversary

SEA View Lads recently celebrated their 40th year since the club's formation – an achievement none of them would have imagined possible when they booked their first boat together.

Over the decades, members have enjoyed some excellent fishing, seen some very dodgy haircuts, fashion faux pas and fish stocks decline, but this has never dampened their enthusiasm or deterred new members from joining their ranks.

Over 40 years, they have fished around the world in pursuit of dream catches and enjoying amazing sport.

Members have whetted lines in every continent from the Arctic to the Southern seas, but their most memorable times have surely been closer to home.

To commemorate their 40th year, they recently held a competition in appallingly cold and wet conditions, followed by a barbecue hosted by the West End Labour Club.

Fishing was poor, but the craic was great. A big thank you to all the staff and volunteers who made the evening a success, along with Barry Angling Centre and Holton Road Angling for donating raffle prizes.

Results in recent months have varied; the boats have fished well with rays and hounds in abundance while the shore has been more of hit and miss affair.

The first shore competition in September had nice rays, including an small-eyed of over 8lb for Aida Harris that helped him to a first place weight of 15lb, while Kevin Sala and Steve Doble weighed in some nice fish in second and third place. Steve has been in good form, having recently landed a fine 20lb eel from the shore only weeks before.

While the 40th year has been a celebration, the club has also lost some close friends - Gary and Bob will be missed but remembered by all, as are many other past members.

If you fancy whetting a line in the company their merry band, the club welcomes new members.

JC

Good start for chess teams

SEPTEMBER sees the start of the new chess season and Barry Chess Club members will take part in competitive East Glamorgan League matches from now until May next year.

Two of Barry's teams were in action this week with the Bosons at home to Cardiff AJ's and the Quarks travelling to Bridgend.

In Division One, with draws agreed quickly on the top two boards, the Bosons needed positive results on the other boards to gain a win.

Steve Cunliffe and Dave Parsons eventually had to accept draws and so it was left to Jonathan Thomas, on board five, to overcome time pressure and secure the win which gave Bosons a 3-2 victory.

The Quarks outgraded their Bridgend opponents on all boards, other than on top board and recorded an excellent 4-1 victory to see them top the table at this early stage of the season.

It might well have been a whitewash, however captain Sam White unfortunately lost narrowly on time.

Over the summer we have recruited a number of new, enthusastic, players to the club and are pleased to confirm we have formed a fifth team, the Stauntons, which will play in Division Four.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

MR

Brynhill enjoy Texas Scramble!

IT was fitting after the excesses of Saturday's 'Mothers Ruin Night', during which numerous varieties of gin were sampled, that Brynhill should host a Texas Scramble on the following day.

Best on the day were Little, Lewis, Phillips and Jones with 58, while in second were Hopkins, Philips, Pierce and Lloyd with 59.1.

This weekend is the Captains Prize - third time lucky hopefully!

Brynhill's battling Wayfarers sealed first place in the league, and promotion to the Premier Division, when they beat Tredegar Park Golf Club away on Tuesday, a magnificent achievement from the Barry Club.

Congratulations are also in order for Brynhill member Mike Moore Jnr, who completed the Iron Man Wales in 15 hours, 36 minutes - not too shabby a time for a two and a half mile swim followed by a 112 mile bike ride topped off with a marathon.

AS

Calling all sports clubs and groups - got a sports story, match report or item of interest? Then get in touch with us - email sport@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Barry rower to compete in world championships

JULIA Heslop, a member of Barry Yacht Club Sea rowing section, will be representing Wales and Great Britain in the World Coastal Sculling Championships in Canada in October.

Julia is a member of the Welsh Coastal Sculling development squad which includes rowers from around Wales.

The squad are trying to develop coastal sculling in Wales and to get rowers to the top in Great Britain and representing at world competitions.

Julia, who only decided to trial for the squad after the birth of her second daughter in April of last year wanted to get back into competitive rowing.

With her previous rowing experience she was asked to join the squad and train with them during the last winter and this summer.

Apart from representing Barry in Welsh Sea Rowing league races, the training culminated in racing at Sandbanks in Poole. It proved to be a very tough challenge over a six kilometre course with a one metre swell.

Julia finished in sixth place in the final against competitors from Great Britain, Ireland and Sweden and qualified for the World Championships in Canada this October along with several of her Welsh teammates.

The boats are six metres in length and have one person rowing with two oars, this is called Sculling.

Steering is done by looking over your shoulder. The boats, called Yoles, are built of fibreglass and designed to withstand rough coastal conditions.

The World Championships are being held in Sidney, Victoria in Canada from October 11-13 and there will be crews competing from all over the world in six different classes, more than 180 boats altogether.

The conditions in Bazan Bay where the racing will take place has a sloping pebble beach, promising challenges of wind, waves and tidal currents making tricky water conditions.

RD

Exciting finale for Sully Sports bowlers

FOR their final game of the season, Sully Sports bowlers made the short trip to Penarth in the PG1s, and it turned out a quite an exciting finale.

Both sides took wins on two rinks each, but Penarth, never behind on aggregate, took the overall victory by 79-68.

Keith Romans' rink were 11-0 down after five ends, and 14-2 in arrears after nine ends, but a courageous fightback, winning eight of the remaining 12 ends, was not sufficient as the home side scored six shots in the closing stages to re-open the gap and run out 23-15 winners.

Graham Brown's rink started brightly leading 5-1 after only three ends, then lost five of the next six ends to trail 13-6, and although they won most of the remaining ends, they were mainly by a single shot, whereas Penarth took 2s and 3s on their winning ends, so held on to win 23-17.

Alan Collard's rink lost the opening end by four shots, were level after three ends and at six ends, then nudged in front and slowly built up a 18-12 lead with two ends left.

Penarth took a shot on the penultimate end, leaving themselves to score five shots for a draw, or six for a win, on the last.

The Sports rink, with the advantage of the last wood, although losing the end, kept the margin down to three shots, and took a close 18-16 win.

The most dramatic rink, and last to finish by some time, was skipped by Lee Romans of Sully Sports and C Fry of Penarth.

The Sports took a shot on the first end, but were down 4-9 after nine ends, tied the scores with five shots on the 10th end, and a 10-9 lead on the 11th.

Penarth retook the lead to be up 16-11 after 16 ends, and were 17-13 up with three ends remaining.

The Sports took three shots on the 19th, and a single on a highly-contested penultimate end as both teams bowled their hearts out.

With the scores level and tension high, the final end had plenty of drama, and excitement, and eventually the Sports prevailed with a shot to win the rink 18-17.

gan, A Thompson, C Coomber, L Romans With the outdoor season over, attention turns to finals day, the AGM and the annual dinner.

The club's (ladies and men) finals day is on Sunday, September 16, starting mid-morning, while the men's AGM will take place at 6.30pm in the Bowls Pavilion on Monday, September 24, and the annual dinner in the Indoor Clubhouse, 7pm for 7.30pm, on Friday, October 5.

MJS

Barrivale Bridge Club news

RESULTS for the Barrivale Bridge Club session on September 4, the Welsh Bridge Union Autumn Simultaneous Pairs):

1. Adrian & Diana Trickey 67.50%; 2. Noelle Bond & Kay Dyer 59.58%; 3. Tim Barsby & Jenny Vaughan 58.10%.

The handicap winners were Hilary Morgan and Debbie Dawkins

As always, new members are welcome at Barrivale bridge club and a partner may be arranged, if required.

If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380, 01446 733425 or 01446 735592, or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Alternatively, players inexperienced or new, may attend the following sessions - Friday, 10am (doors open 9.45am) at the Pioneer Hall for lessons and assisted play; Thursday afternoons for assisted play, 1.30pm-4pm at the Barry Uniting Church, Heol y Llongau, BarryCF63 4AP (the waterfront).

While our current class for beginners continue to run on Friday mornings, new members wishing to start the class will be able to join the next beginners' class commencing on September 21.

LH

Barry and District League tables and results

CRIB DIVISION 1:

Rhoose Social 9, West End 6; West End Runaways 8, Cadoxton Cons 7; Moors Boys 7, Wyndham Cons 8.

League table: Cadoxton Cons 19, Wyndham Cons 16, West End Runaways 15, West End 14, Moors Boys 10, Rhoose Social 9, Liberals 7.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

Slammers 1, King William XII 6; Liberals A 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Rhoose Social B 2, Rhoose Social A 5; Allsorts 2, West End C 5; Rhoosters 0.5, West End D 6.5; Sea View Exiles 1.5, Rugby Club 5.5.

League table: West End D 6.5, King William XII 6, Rugby Club 5.5, Liberals A 5, Rhoose Social A 5, West End C 5, Allsorts 2, Cambrian Flyers 2, Rhoose Social B 2, Sea View Exiles 1.5, Slammers 1, Rhoosters 0.5, Barries Boys 0, Barry Town FC 0, Liberals C 0, Rhoose Social C 0.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

Wyndham Cons A 2, Harbour B 3; West End C 4, Penarth Cons A 1; Savoy A 3, Cadoxton Wildcats 2; Liberators 2, Cadoxton Cons Z 3; Cadoxton Cons B 5, Market Street B 0.

League table: West End C 9, Cadoxton Cons Z 7, Savoy A 7, Cadoxton Cons B 6, Wyndham Cons A 6, Harbour B 3, Cadoxton Wildcats 2, Liberators 2, Penarth Cons A 2, Market Street B 1, Rhoose Social B 0.

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

Cadoxton Cons A 2, Savoy B 3; Wyndham Cons D 1, West End A 4; Market Street C 1, Rhoose Social C 4; Harbour A 5, West End B 0; Services Social B 2, Sully Sports A 3.

League table: Harbour A 7, Savoy B 7, Cadoxton Cons A 6, Services Social B 6, West End A 6, Market Street C 4, Rhoose Social C 4, Sully Sports A 4, Penarth Cons B 3, Wyndham Cons D 2, West End B 1 (* = points deducted).

View all results and league tables at barryleagues.co.uk.

JW

Barry and District ladies skittle league

DIVISION 1:

Bakers Dozen 275 (M. Rocket 29), Pila Pala 286 (V. Evans, M. Barnett & S. Potter 28); Allsorts 267 (S. Greenwell 27), La Belles 260 (L. Hughes 26); Family Affair 212 (S. Wilcox 25), Coppers 244 (H. Ford & S. Curtis 24); Fallen Angels 268 (C. Jones 28), Special Angels 271 (S. Wood & R. Niblett 27); Sea View Gals 283 (J. Cannan 30), Space Finders 248 (L. Jones & J. Jones 24); Family & Friends 239 (A. Provis 26), Barry Stars 255 (D. James 27).

Division 2:

Breakaways 233 (L. Burnett 28), Colcot Ladies 241 (A. Singleton 29); Persuaders 229 (M. Whitehurst 26), Rugby Triers 196 (S. Cogbill 27); Red Admiral 226 (M. McCarthy & G. Williams 23), Rhoose Starlights 207 (D. Straddling & K. Bryan 25); Bandits 220 (L Norris 28), Challengers 247 (D. Easton, A. Richards & J. Dimond 25); Witchill Weebies 315 (N. Hillberg 37), Airways Angels 311 (L. Donovan 34).

Division 3:

Sea View Ladies 249 (S. Humphries 28), Uptown Girls 235 (A. Hobbs 27); Little Devils 235 (L. Hughes 25), Etcetera 232 (C. McIntosh 24); Witches 218 (V. Walters 31), Vixens 256 (K. Thomas 29); Hillbillies 312 (G. Moorcraft 34), Westenders 329 (S. Evans 34); Witchill Widows 326 (D. Bushes 34), Liberals 310 (V. Allen 33); Off the Rails 267(L Stephenson 27), Merry Makers 181 (G. Hawker 26).

Division 4:

Livin on a Spare 327 (I. Overton 38), Witchill Wanderers 304 (C. Morrissey 30); Socialites 210 (G Savory 33), Boozy Birds 228 (L. Harris 29); Little Misfits 196 (D. Eason 22), Hell Raisers 201 (J. Rosser 26).

AB

Got a sports story, match report or item of interest? Then get in touch with us - email sport@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Finals weekend for Cadoxton bowlers

DUE to some of the members qualifying for a number of finals at Cadoxton Bowls Club's finals weekend, the matches were played over two days.

Saturday started with the club championship and in a match closer than the score suggests, Ian Heppenstall, in his first final, overcame Will Craven, regularly taking away the steady accurate bowling of his opponent with last bowls, winning 21-9.

In the pairs, Ewan Heppenstall and Steve Clarke had Derek Jeffries and Andy Ralphs as their opposition.

During the early stages Steve's pair took a 14-6 advantage, before a rally from Derek's pair reduced the difference to just one shot at 15-14.

However two singles gave them a three shot advantage playing the final end, during which they were happy to concede just one shot.

Derek Jeffries played his pairs partner Andy Ralphs on Sunday morning in the Jack Hartman trophy, which he lost 17-21 in a closely-contested competition.

On Saturday afternoon, Don Kuhnell assisted by Jim Stacey and Will Craven met Howard Craven assisted by Glen Solomon and Ian Heppenstall in the triples.

Don took a 4-0 advantage after three ends. After 10 ends the gap was still four shots at 8-4.

Howard's rink managed only four further winning ends from the next 14 and with two 6s required with two ends left the match was conceded at 18-7.

The two bowls was contested with Steve Clarke, playing his second final, against Derek Jeffries, playing his third.

This was another very close encounter with Steve chalking up a second success by a narrow one shot victory.

The afternoon was rounded off with the handicap and the novices finals.

Derek Jeffries who seemed to be playing non-stop, finally came out on top in another tight match with a success against John Papoutsou, scoring a two on the final end to win 21-18.

Meanwhile Ian Heppenstall was completing a double, by adding the novices against Emlyn Davies (21-7) to his earlier success in the club championship.

DK

A team survive - and finals day at Romilly!

AFTER a somewhat indifferent first half to the season, Romilly A side staged a recovery and travelled to Beddau needing 1 point to avoid relegation.

For a long time during the match this looked unlikely, however, a fighting performance by the team in support of Denis Mottram's last game as A team captain resulted in the team gaining two points.

Results: Rink 1 - E. Fortt, B. Gough, A.M.Jones and skip Paul Clarke 18-22; rink 2 - P. James, J. Kirkpatrick, P. Edwards and skip Ray Hewitson 20-23; rink 3 - D. Noble, B. Parker, D. Mottram and skip David Francis 17-25; rink 4 - J. Daly, P. Herbert, J. Kirk and skip Barrie Griffiths 24-19. Final score - 79-89.

Denis Mottram thanked all the players for their support during his season as A team captain.

Joint finals day was held on September 8:

Mens results - Championship: Jeff Wright, runner-up Kelvyne Mills, 21-14; Handicap: Jerry Daly, runner-up Paul James, 21-9; 2 Bowls: Paul James, runner-up Kelvyne Mills, 15-12; Mottram: Eric Fortt, runner-up Dave Noble, 22-20; Pairs Alan Bannister and Jerry Daly, runners-up Paul Swannick and Dave Noble, 19-12.

Triples: Mike Doyle, Jerry Daly and Barrie Griffiths, runners-up Mel Newman, Roger Jones and Paul Swannick, 15-8; Rinks: Denis Mottram, Barrie Griffiths, Paul Swannick and skip Graham Cogbill, runners-up: Dave Noble, John Kirk, Alan Bryan and skip Mike Doyle.

This game was tied after 15 ends, which resulted in an extra end being played. Mike Doyle's team were holding one shot when skip Cogbill bowled his first wood and got an outrageous wick which resulted in his side holding shot.

Mike bowled his last wood and narrowly missed taking the shot back to make the final score 16-15.

Ladies results - Championship: Myra Newman, runner-up Jacquie MacPherson, 23-19; Handicap: Jacquie MacPherson, runner-up Gaynor Taylor, 21-20; 2 Wood singles: Myra Newman, runner-up Jan Noble, 15-8; Novice: Jacquie MacPherson, runner-up Bonnie Harvey, 21-15.

Rinks: Jan Noble, Bonnie Harvey, Myra Newman and Gaynor Taylor, runners-up Rita Jones, Pam Price, Alma Sheppard and Mair Newland; Triples: Pat Cogbill, Gaynor Taylor and Rita Jones; 4 wood pairs: Jan Noble and Angela Hort, runners-up Gaynor Taylor and Myra Newman; 2 wood pairs: Jan Noble and Angela Hort, runners-up A. Haines and Mair Newland; mixed pairs: Jo Jeeves and Alan Bannister, runners-up Jacquie MacPherson and Mel Newman; mixed rinks: Bonnie Harvey, Beryl Holmes, Denis Mottram and Paul Swannick, runners-up Gill Clarke, Jan Noble, Paul James and Alan Bannister.

Congratulations to all the finalists, and thanks go to Terry and Mary Bloomfield and Carol Doyle for their hard work in running the barbecue all day.

New members always welcome - please contact secretary Paul James at Romilly Bowls Club.

JK

Beavers let loose

ON August Bank Holiday Monday, some of the Barry Beavers turned up on Whitmore Bay Barry Island.

They passed out leaflets to the visitors of the Island in animal costumes, and during the day they had an splash in the water .

Visitors put money into the buckets provided by the club which would help towards their funds, and there was merchandise, drinks and snacks also available.

On the day we collected £173 in the buckets and a further £36.20 from sales! **NC**

'Non-contact boxing' for charity

IN October, Cowbridge will host new type of sporting event – non-contact boxing – to raise money for Mind Cymru.

World Champion trainer Darren Wilson, along with gym owner Brendon Lyons, created the event, which will have fighters hitting punch bags against the clock, with their power and style determining the winner.

Founder of Intensity Boxing and World Champion trainer Darren Wilson, along with gym owner Brendon Lyons, created the event, which sees fighters hit punch bags against the clock with their power and style determining the winner.

Alongside members of the public, the team has signed Capital FM's Polly James to add some star power to the event. Mr Wilson said: "Intensity non-contact boxing is a new project to raise money for Mind. We've got a number of fighters working hard on their stamina and skills and can't wait for the main event."

"We have loads of different types of people taking part, some ex-professional fighters, some celebrities, and also some who have always wanted to take part in a boxing event and did not like getting hit – or their work can't allow them to have black eyes. There are lots of different reasons why non-contact boxing has proven so popular."

Anyone can sign up and each competitor is given eight weeks of free training to build their fitness and technique before taking part in the event, in front of friends, family and fans.

As the event is non-contact, fighters will hit punch bags with an electronic chip system in their gloves.

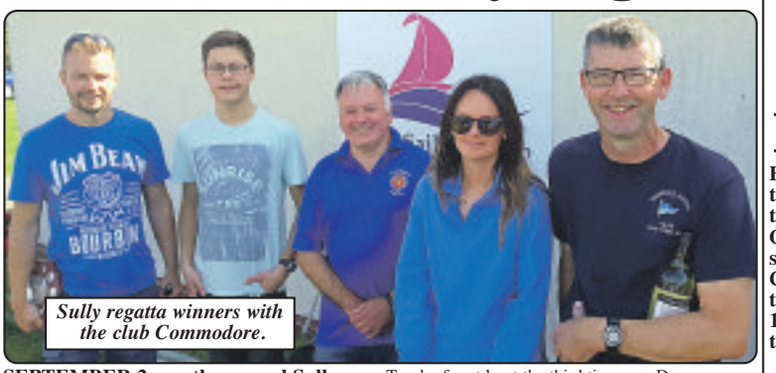
The chips measure how many punches are thrown, as well as the velocity of the punches in each round. This creates a combined intensity score – with the overall score over the three rounds deciding who wins.

The event will take place in Cowbridge on October 13 and is the first in a series of events across the UK.

For more information, call 01443 231511.

AS

All smiles at Sully Regatta



Sully regatta winners with the club Commodore.

SEPTEMBER 2 saw the annual Sully Sailing Club Regatta taking place.

The event, comprising three races, was run in gradually decreasing winds and won by Nick Smith and his daughter, Indigo, sailing a Miracle dinghy. Nick and Indigo had travelled from Thornbury Sailing Club, in England to take part.

In second place, and winning the Club Regatta Trophy for at least the third time was Danny Powell.

Third place saw three boats on equal points but after tie breakers were applied it was Jake Richardson who took the prize, sailing a Laser Radial.

Prizes were presented by the Commodore Will Vickery.

NV

Success for lady bowlers

PICTURED are the Dinas Powys Bowls Club ladies, who recently won the afternoon double rink tournament.

Captain Denise Letts would like to thank the ladies for all their hard work this season.

DL

Vale of Glamorgan Football League news

HOLTON ROAD took a grip upon the top of Division One as they saw off second-placed Cardiff Airport 3-1 to maintain their 100 per cent start to the campaign.

Holton Road maintained their perfect start to the season and are the league's top scorers.

SP Billy followed up last week's first win to make it two on the bounce as they impressively edged out Cadoxton Imps 3-2.

Cadoxton Barry suffered a shock 4-1 loss to Cwm Talwg, the latter team's first points of the season with an excellent result.

In the Premier Division, Barry Athletic continued to set the pace at the top of the league as they pipped Barry Saints 2-1, a wonder strike from Andrew Hurley sealing the points.

Rhoose continue to be one of the nearest challengers and were impressive as they saw off Cowbridge Town 4-1 at the Bear Field.

Island Marine's good start to the season saw them come out 3-2 winners over Penarth Town to stay third and maintain their title challenge.

St Athan lifted themselves off the bottom and into fifth spot with a vital 5-3 victory over Sully Sports, Karl Steel's double ensuring victory.

In Division Two, Rhoose B continued to dominate as they thrashed Barry Albion 5-0, to make it five out of five so far.

St Athan B picked up an impressive 2-1 away win over Vale Madrid while Barry Vikings continue their fine start to the season with a 3-2 win over Island Marine B.

Barry Athletic B picked up their first three points with a 4-2 victory away to Penarth Town B.

This week it's a mixture of league games and three Barry Cup ties, with Division One Cwm Talwg travelling to high-flying Rhoose.

HD

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ALL CARS REDUCED TO CLEAR FIND US ON FACEBOOK NEW CARS ARRIVING

Youth see yellow, but cruise to cup victory

COWBRIDGE RFC youth opened their season with an impressive 24-0 home victory against Penarth in their defence of the Blues Cup.

Although the team scored four unanswered tries, the most impressive part of their game was their defensive effort.

On a glorious autumn afternoon and with the first team playing at home, the youth took to the Police fields with a large number of new youth members.

Penarth arrived in confident mood following a close defeat to Pontypridd in their opening game of the season last week.

The Cowbridge pack began with great intensity, and soon got on the scoreboard with a barn-storming try by their powerful No 8, Reuben Williams.

The pack had made some hard yards up the middle of the pitch, when Ioan Williams noticed Reuben standing as first receiver.

A simple pop pass allowed the No 8 to score with a couple of Penarth defenders on his back. Ioan Cooper converted.

Penarth then began to get their game going, and kept Cowbridge camped inside their own 22 for a long period of time.

This would not be the last time the Cowbridge defence had to dig deep, keep their discipline and work hard to prevent Penarth from crossing their line.

With the high intensity tackling the referee gave a general warning to both teams to keep their tackles down.

Unfortunately following his own clearing kick, Evan Thomas, the Cowbridge outside half, got his timing wrong in the tackle leaving the referee no choice but to give him 10 minutes in the sin-bin.

To Cowbridge's credit, they reorganised and played some mature rugby to see out their punishment without conceding a score.

With the game approaching half-time, Cowbridge scored two quick tries.

The first came from a complete team performance. The forwards won clean ball at the line-out, the backs made good metres up the middle of the pitch.

This enabled Ioan Williams to move the ball back to the blind side, where left winger Jack Dixon was brought down metres from the line.

Williams looked up and saw the ever-present open-side flanker Iestyn Galton on his shoulder, and with a simple side step, Galton went over unopposed.

Just before the half-time whistle Rhydian Williams, the Cowbridge full-back made it 17-0.

The Cowbridge backs once again cut loose and put Dixon clear on his wing. Dixon kept the ball alive by cutting back inside off his left.

Dixon offloaded to Rhydian who glided past the covering Penarth defence with a simple but very effective side step. At half-time the score was Cowbridge 17, Penarth 0.

In the second half, Penarth were camped inside the Cowbridge 22 for long periods.

With the penalty count growing, Cowbridge received another yellow card. Dixon came in from his left wing to try and win the ball in a ruck just inside the Cowbridge 22.

The referee deemed the ball was not out of the ruck and yellow-carded Dixon. Once again, Cowbridge reorganised their back line and defended heroically for long periods.

When Cowbridge got back to full strength they seemed to get a new injection of energy and forced themselves into the Penarth 22.

They moved the Penarth defence from one side of the pitch to the other, and with the defence split, Jac Roberts went over unopposed for Cowbridge's fourth try of the game, which Rhydian Williams converted.

To Penarth's credit they did not let their heads drop and forced themselves back into the Cowbridge 22.

As the game entered its final few minutes Rhydian Williams made a desperate attempt at a turnover only for the referee to penalise him for being off his feet, giving him Cowbridge's third yellow card.

The referee then issued Williams with a red card, a case of mistaken identity as he thought he had already given Williams a yellow!

Luckily enough for Williams, the referee noticed his mistake and went back to yellow.

Once again, Cowbridge dug deep for the last play of the game with 14 players and kept that all important clean sheet.

GJ

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Seaweeds edge win in high-profile encounter

PORTHCAWL RFC welcomed table-toppers Nantyffyllon to South Road on Saturday for an early season, high-profile clash, and ran out worthy victors in a fascinating and hard-fought encounter.

Ben Asprea looks for a pass (All pictures by Tracey Williams).

Jon Phillips beats his tackler.

Owen Thomas looks for a gap.

The Porthcawl pack's willingness to take the game to the visitors laid the foundation for the win, as this allowed Porthcawl's creative back division to gain the upper hand in territory and creation of scoring chances.

Flanker Ben Asprea seemed to have got the Seaweeds off to the ideal start as he cantered over behind the posts, following a flowing home attack, only for the referee to call it back for a scrum for an apparent forward pass – a tough call.

However, minutes later the versatile Ben Thomas, in at outside-half for the absent Josh White, kicked Porthcawl into a deserved lead with a penalty for offside.

Nanty are a very useful side and put Porthcawl under pressure at times. However, the Seaweeds defence, outstanding all last season, kept them at bay, before again moving upfield. One such foray saw Thomas slot his second penalty, this time from 35 metres, to make it 6-0.

With 30 minutes gone, Porthcawl playmaker centre Jon Phillips made a superb break from defence down the right touchline, the ball moving through several pairs of Porthcawl hands, before moving back left to see wing Jake Thomas stride over at the corner for a fine try. Thomas' conversion from the touchline dipped short.

Both sides were enjoying good amounts of territory in turn, however Porthcawl's better use of possession steered them into half-time at 11-0.

As is often the case after the interval pep talk, Nanty came out more purposefully at the start of the second half and were soon rewarded as Porthcawl indiscretions at the breakdown soon led to outside half Cameron Jones slotting a neat penalty for Nanty to cut the deficit.

Thomas had a chance immediately afterwards to slot his third goal for Porthcawl from 27 metres, his kick going astray, however, to keep it at 11-3.

When Jones then cut the gap to five points with his second penalty for Nanty at 11-6, the Seaweeds needed to regalvanise, which they did with aplomb.

With Phillips, co-centre Aled Davies and full-back Jordan Skidmore proving a handful in attack, a couple of penalties saw Thomas drive Porthcawl to the corner for a line-out 10 metres from the Nanty line.

The home pack, starting now to dominate matters, took clean ball to instigate a driving maul, with substitute flanker Owen Thomas being driven over the line for the try that increased the gap to 10 points at 16-6, Thomas' conversion agonisingly shaving the post.

Nanty would now have to score twice going into the closing stages.

However, with the Seaweeds defence holding firm, the final whistle blew to bring Porthcawl's second win from two, ahead of Saturday's interesting trip up the Ogmore Valley to face Nantymoel, always a tough proposition on their home patch.

PF

Llantwit Major RFC under-13s are on learning curve

IT was a hard day in the office for Llantwit Major RFC under-13s, who came up against a very well-drilled and talented Llanishen team at home on Sunday.

With sickness hitting the squad before the game, the match was played with 14-a-side with a number of players also playing out of position for the home team.

Unfortunately, Llanishen proved to be the better team on the day and came out comfortable winners.

That being said, there are lots of positives to be taken for a Llantwit Major team that is still developing. The highlight of the match was a spectacular lineout perfectly thrown in by Kian Barnett and caught by a soaring Blake Gifford with the assistance of Dan Bartlett and Carwyn John, showing that what is done in training can be carried forward into the game.

There is lots of hard work required, but the team are growing and will only learn from this match.

Squad: Robert Dixon, Kian Barnett, Flynn Barry, Carwyn John, Ollie Gale, Blake Gifford, Dan Bartlett, Kelyn Joseph, Tom Jones, Kai Harris, Ethan Harding, Harvey Jones, Thomas George and Tom Sheldon.

SJ

Volvo V90 T4 Momentum Pro – probably the best car you will ever drive...

IF you have ever owned a Volvo, you will know only too well about the stigma that used to surround the owner of such a vehicle and how many people will assume the only reason you bought one in the first place was because you were either a painter and decorator, over the age of 65 or you find watching the 'Time Team' on TV an exciting event.

Well, none of the above is actually true, of course, and it's all a bit of a red herring if I'm being honest, because buying a Volvo right now will probably be the best decision you are ever likely to make now, or at any time in the future.

Power and efficiency: The V90 I have on test is powered by a 1969cc petrol engine that has 190hp and 300Nm of torque. Fuel economy also comes in at around 40 mpg (combined) and CO2 emissions of 156g/km, along with a Top speed of around 130mph. This is a big car though and I felt that the engine needed a bit more power to help give it a bit more of a sprint appeal. But if you select one of the more 'engaging' driving modes, then things start to feel that little bit more exciting and the V90 picks up its pace, but without having a massive effect on fuel economy.

The Volvo V90 T4 Momentum is an 'epic' ride, says reviewer Tony Yates.

On the road: I expected nothing but the best and I was not disappointed. The V90 does not roll and scamper around like a scalded cat – it just glides. It's actually like driving around on air, it's that good. The grip levels are also another part of the V90 that work so well because Volvo has once again built a car that feels epic on the road and so sure-footed, even the most over-enthusiastic driver would struggle to get it out of shape.

The new V90 also delivers cutting-edge Pilot Assist semi-autonomous drive technology, which for me is the most advanced standard safety package on the market today and Run-off-Road Mitigation, which is another safety feature keeping you safe while out on the open road.

Safety and technology: Some of the standard equipment in the V90 includes Sensus Navigation, Voice-control system, City Safety, which includes pedestrian, cyclist and front collision warning with fully automatic emergency braking, including at junctions. It also has Pilot Assist; Adaptive Cruise Control and Run-off road protection, which automatically tightens the front seatbelts should the car inadvertently leave the road; LED headlights with active high beam; two-zone climate control with 'Cleanzone' air-quality system; an eight-inch active TFT crystal driver's information display; 17-inch alloy wheels (18-inch on D5 PowerPulse versions) and Volvo's in-car infotainment control system, which is basically a 9-inch touch screen control panel where the majority of functions inside the vehicle are controlled from.

In summary: The V90 is simply epic and why we all should consider owning one.

Price: Model as tested £44,880, including options.

TONY YATES

When point-to-point came to the Vale - part four

THIS is the fourth extract from Brian Lee's long out of print *The Races Came Off – The Atory of Point-to-Point Racing in South and West Wales.*

Before the start of the Glamorgan point-to-point of 1902, the riders met at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, where the Crossways course was pointed out to them.

In the heavyweight race, *Lady Edward* reversed the previous year's placings with *Magpie* coming home a length clear. The Mackintosh soon made amends for *Magpie's* defeat by winning the lighweight race with *Mainspring,* who easily accounted for his 10 rivals.

The judge, Col Harbor Homfray, had a hard task in seperating the first three home in the farmers' race in which Mr W C Blake's *Colonel* finished a head in front of *Rosebud*, with *Kitchener* a further head away in third place.

This was the year that Lewis Gottwaltz resigned his secretaryship of Cardiff (Ely) Races, a post he had held for 17 years. At the time, Mr Gottwaltz remarked that the people of south Wales had not the love of racing which was found in other parts of the country.

Though this remark could have had a lot of truth in it, for attendances at Cardiff Racecourse had declined, it certainly was not true with regard to point-to-point racing.

Thousands turned up at Pentyrch for the Ystrad Point-To-Point where Mr H Llewellyn's *Darkie* took the lightweight event, and Mr G T Treharne's *Hampton* the heavyweight race.

In 1903, the Glamorgan Hunt Point-To-Point returned to Bonvilston, where the course which was selected near the Aubrey Arms was 'an admirably arranged one'.

Continuous rain overnight and during the morning made it very heavy going causing quite a few spills. For the second year running Mr W C Blake's *The Colonel* won the farmers' race, beating Gus Rooney's *Jack The Dandy*.

In the heavyweight race two of the riders – who wore hunting costume – were left behind at the first fence when their horses refused to jump it. But like true huntsmen, they eventually managed to get their mounts to clear the obstacle and rejoined the race, first past the post being Tom Price's brown mare, *Black Fury*.

The lightweight race went to Mr E H Forrester's brown gelding *Lifebuoy*, who forged ahead a few yards from the winning post to score by a neck. *Lifebuoy* was ridden by Mr Thackeray of Glan-Ely.

The Lewis Arms in Pentych, near Cardiff, was where the horses and riders met for the Ystrad and Pentych fixture.

There were four events to be decided, a lightweight and heavyweight race, a sweepstakes race and a farmers' race which was for horses of 14 hands.

Horses that exceeded this height had to carry seven pounds extra for every inch over it. Those horses under 14 hands were allowed seven pounds.

Mr T. Llewellyn's *Dolly Grey*, ridden by Mr J Powell, emerged the winner of this race. The popular sporting Dr Moynan won the heavyweight event on Mr J D Williams' *Limerick*.

**Brian Lee is the author of the best-selling Racing Rogues - The Scams, Scandals and Gambles of Horse Racing in Wales, published by St David's Press.*

Stableford action for St Mary's golfers

ST Mary's Golf Club senior section's main competition of the week was a two division Stableford.

Of the 25 entries, 12 members with handicaps up to 21 were assigned to division one, and the remaining 13 members, with handicaps of 22 and above were assigned to division two.

The highlight of the day was a stellar round by section captain Hugh Williams, who, after sinking a 60 foot putt on the fourth green, went on to chalk up a six better than par score of 24 points for the front nine, with a somewhat more modest return of 18 points for the second half.

His splendid total of 42 points were more than sufficient to claim the division one title by three points from second placed Ian Taylor's 39 points.

Reflecting on his victory, Williams said: "That was my best ever front nine but I got a little nervous over the closing holes."

In division two the in-form Gareth Jones headed the leaderboard with 35 points, one more than vice-captain Dave Hughes.

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Athletic bounce back to record impressive win

SHOWING seven changes from a disappointing and lacklustre home defeat to Dinas Powys, Bridgend Athletic faced a tough visit to Gilfach Goch who were bristling with confidence following a 30-16 away win at Treorchy in Division One East Central.

Man of the match Ben Howe forces his way through. ALL PICTURES BY JON CANON.

The coaching team's call for the Athletic to front up to the physical challenges they face in this new league was answered in spades as they subdued a very aggressive home side, encouraged by a vociferous crowd, to come back from 23-9 down to run out 31-23 victors.

The Athletic kicked off playing down the slope but against the wind and driving rain. A missed tackle in midfield led to the Athletic conceding a penalty kicked by Goch wing Connor Davies.

The Athletic bounced back when aggressive play by the back row of Ben Davies, Luke Williams and captain Ben Howe saw the ball moved via a new half back partnership of Robin Davies and Jacob Lloyd to the new centre combination of Josh Davies and Tom Jenkins.

Goch strayed offside to halt the move and Lloyd levelled the scores with a penalty.

Both sides were cancelling each other out with the Athletic front row of Wayne Fooks, Lee Murphy and Matthew Muir holding their own in the set scrums.

Good link play by Athletic full back Caine Woolerton and wing Michael Powell inside their own 22 saw a move make 60 metres before fizzling out.

Back came Gilfach Goch and they pounded the Athletic line. Excellent defence kept the home side out before the Athletic transgressed offside and Davies levelled the scores with five minutes of the half remaining.

From the restart Goch conceded a penalty on halfway. Lloyd, with a monster kick against the wind from halfway, gave the Athletic a 9-6 half-time lead with his third penalty.

Within a minute of the restart Davies levelled the match with his own hat-trick of penalties.

An attempted grubber kick was seized by the Goch wing just inside his own half.

Full back Josh Williams took an inside pass to breach the stretched Athletic defence and race under the posts from half way. Davies converted.

From the restart two silly penalties saw Goch kick their way into the Athletic 22.

The Athletic were yellow carded in desperately trying to keep out the home side, who elected for a five-metre scrum penalty.

They pushed the Athletic eight backwards for No 8 Nathan Roderick to score a pushover try converted by Davies to give the home side a 23-9 lead.

It looked like deja vu as the previous week the Athletic also conceded two quick tries at the start of the second half.

However captain Ben Howe, unavailable last week, rallied his troops in both words and actions in a man of the match display.

Tom Davies launches himself to score for the Athletic.

A flowing move with Howe prominent saw the Athletic halted just short of the Goch try line.

Desperate defence kept the Athletic at bay with thrusts by hooker Lee Murphy and locks Jonathon Stoker and Ben Cording until Howe, leading by example, dummied and forced his way over the whitewash. Lloyd's conversion brought the Athletic back to within seven points of Gilfach.

With superior fitness and rugby skills the Athletic then took control.

A good run by wing Joe Patterson was illegally halted with a high tackle resulting in a yellow card for Goch. Lloyd reduced the Athletic deficit to four points with his fourth penalty.

With timely substitions bringing on fresh legs from Morgan Clemett, Aled Pilliner, Tom Davies and Will Barraclough in the pack and Sam Richards in the backs the Athletic were now on the front foot.

With eight minutes remaining flanker Ben Davies caught lineout ball 22 metres out, brushed aside his opposite number and raced over in the corner.

Lloyd's touchline conversion put the Athletic 26-23 ahead and a personal match haul of 16 points.

There was no way back for a tiring Gilfach pack and when Ben Howe broke clear in the final minute Tom Davies was on his shoulder to take the scoring pass and deny the home side a losing bonus point.

The Athletic coaches were delighted with the performance and superb comeback, telling their players if they can front up and keep out the aggressive packs in this division in the opening hour, their fitness and rugby skills will pay dividends as it did on the day.

This Saturday, September 15, the Athletic host Treorchy at the Morganstone Brewery Field, with the coaches facing a difficult selection choice with five players unavailable for the Gilfach game back in the reckoning – most teams would like to be in this strength in depth position.

AB

Celtic Seconds are in rampant form

MAESTEG Celtic seconds travelled to Gorseinon for their first Ospreys League fixture.

Ross Powell forces his way over the line.

Although it had rained all morning the weather cleared up for the match and conditions were very good to start the game.

Celtic played uphill into a steady breeze in the first half. Gorseinon's forwards drove strongly at the Celtic defence from the start but the visitors' front five of Damien Phillips, Morgan Reeves, Jay Whelan, Mark Wilkins and Ross Powell held firm.

The Gorseinon outside half attempted to kick for territory but the Celtic back three of Geraint Roberts, Gareth Blackwell and Shaun Raymond ran the ball back with interest.

Centres Lee Arthur and Lloyd Jenkins defended well and attacked at every opportunity.

Celtic opened the scoring after 10 minutes when young scrum half Lloyd Turner received the ball from a lineout and passed to outside half Neil Arthur, who made an outside break through the defensive line before putting his brother Lee clear to touch down. Shaun Raymond converted.

Gorseinon closed the gap with a well-taken penalty from 40 metres, before Celtic went further ahead.

After repeated drives into the home 22 young scrum half Turner found centre Lee Arthur at pace on the short side and he took the ball to the line.

Flanker Callum Bowen followed up and crossed for the try.

Gorseinon scored early in the second half from a well-executed lineout move. Later Celtic were awarded a penalty in the home 22 and chose a scrum.

Number 8 Mark Hillier-Rees picked up and drove at the defence. Second row Mark Wilkins followed up and drove over for the touchdown. Geraint Roberts converted.

From the restart Celtic ran the ball in front of their posts and were penalised at the breakdown. Gorseinon kicked the penalty.

Celtic gained a bonus point when substitute scrum half Liam Healy made a 40-metre break and Neil Arthur kicked the ensuing penalty into touch in the home 22.

Lineout jumper Mark Hillier-Rees won quick ball which allowed outside half Neil Arthur to cut through.

Effective clearing out by captain Nathan Adams allowed second row Ross Powell to crash over for the try. Roberts converted.

Celtic coach Kieran Power made a number of changes, bringing on experienced flanker Ian Herbert, veteran prop Dale Cook, centre Lee Sainsbury and wing Gavin Joseph.

Celtic's fifth try came when flanker Callum Bowen burst through a lineout and charged 30 metres before being dragged down.

From the ensuing scrum outside half Neil Arthur fed wing Geraint Roberts on the burst and he ran through the defence untouched. Nathan Edwards converted.

Their sixth try came from a break by full back Roberts in his own half.

He passed to wing Gavin Joseph who ran 40 metres down the touchline before drawing the cover defence and passing back inside to Roberts who touched down.

The match concluded when Roberts intercepted on halfway and sprinted around the defence and ran to the line.

He returned the compliment to Gavin Joseph by passing to him to score.

Hooker Morgan Reeves was nominated man of the match.

KS

Bowling husband and wife battle it out in championship

BRIDGEND Municipal Bowling Club were pleased (and amused) to see husband and wife members Ken and Debbie Taylor winning through to become this year's 'champions' of their respective sections.

In accordance with tradition both champions have to play against each other in the King's Cup competition to establish the club's 'champion of champions' for that year.

To everybody's amusement, Debbie playfully threatened Ken before the start of the game!

Debbie went on to win by 21 shots to 14 when Ken embraced her on her excellent win.

This highest of the club's awards will be presented to Debbie at the club's annual presentation night in October, where all competition winners will receive their trophies.

GC

Honours even for Phoenix under-18s

AS the final 10-10 scoreline would suggest, this was an evenly-fought affair throughout between Rhondda Valley Miners girls under-18 and Pencoed Phoenix girls under-18s.

Phoenix opened the scoring after 15 minutes when outside half Ellie Buffey made a clean break before linking with her three-quarters, who handled superbly to put captain Evie Evans racing over wide out.

Within minutes the home side drew level and that was how first half matters stayed, and the interval saw both sides locked at 5-5.

With the game to and fro in terms of territory there came a key moment in the match.

Phoenix appeared to have scored a superb try from a tap penalty, full back Erin Smith racing on to a well-timed pass 22 metres out to race over under the posts; unfortunately Phoenix were then called back, only to be given another tap penalty.

Shortly after Phoenix were reduced to 14 players having picked up a yellow card. However, they were not deterred and Smith repeated her earlier effort, only this time from 50 metres, beating several home defenders to score a brilliant try.

The Miners then got a superb individual try of their own to level matters, and despite the best efforts of both sides the final whistle arrived at 10-10, the outcome a fair result between these evenly-matched sides.

Both clubs included a number of emergent under-15s players making their debut at this level and the respective coaches can feel well pleased with their debutants.

TR

Ironman Jason completes Tenby course

HAVING completed the Frankfurt Ironman in July in a remarkable 11 hours and 11 minutes, 41-year-old former Bridgend Athletic rugby wing Jason Rafill was back in the water, on his bike and foot completing his third Ironman in a year at the Tenby Ironman on September 9.

The Tenby course is far more undulating and challenging than Frankfurt.

Cheered on by his proud family, wife Denise, daughter Beau, son Archie encouraging him 10k from the finish, as well as parents, and in-laws, his time of 12 hours, 3 minutes improved his previous time at Tenby in 2017 by 57 minutes.

His split times supplied by Tenby Ironman website were 2.4-mile swim - 01.25.48, 112-mile bike ride - 06.20.08 and 26-mile marathon - 03 54.37.

AB

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GIGGS BEGINS COMPETITIVE REIGN WITH WIN AND DEFEAT

From the ecstacy to the agony... Denmark give Wales a reality check after Irish tour de force

ABOVE: Gareth Bale bagged a wonder strike against Republic of Ireland, and captained the side against Denmark on Sunday. ALL PICTURES BY HUW EVANS AGENCY.

The mix of youth, seen in David Brooks (left) and Ethan Ampadu (centre), along with the experience of Aaron Ramsey (right) was to the forefront as Wales beat Republic of Ireland 4-1 in Cardiff.

Ryan Giggs will have learned much from his first two competitive games as Wales boss.

by GARETH JAMIESON

IT seems surprising that September marks nine months since Ryan Giggs took charge of the Welsh senior national team. Due to it being a World Cup year, Giggs has only overseen three games in that time frame, none of which could be considered to be, in themselves, games of importance or great significance.

However, the games in the China Cup against the hosts and Uruguay, and May's goal-less draw with Mexico in Los Angeles carried a great deal of significance for the future of Welsh football.

One point made about Chris Coleman's reign was his dependence on a core of players, players who achieved so much in France two years ago, but players who, when unavailable, never had wholly-capable deputies.

Giggs, conscious of the need to blood youngsters and aware of father time creeping up on those core players, has taken great steps to address that issue, placing the emphasis on youth and trying to get the mix right so that Wales can prosper even when shorn of our top-class talent.

When it came to naming his first competitive squad for the Nations League double-header against Republic of Ireland and Denmark, Giggs stayed the course, no place for Hal Robson-Kanu (who chose to retire from international football safe in the knowledge that that goal against Belgium will ensure his place in all Welsh fans' hearts) nor Neil Taylor.

Instead, among the list of perennials such as Bale, Ramsey, Gunter, Hennessey, Allen and Williams were the likes Connor Roberts, Chris Mepham, Tom Lockyer, Ethan Ampadu, Matthew Smith, Harry Wilson, Ben Woodburn, David Brooks and Tyler Roberts, the new breed, many of whom have already shown glimpses of what they are capable of on the international stage.

Their first major test was against Martin O'Neill's Republic of Ireland on Thursday night at the Cardiff City Stadium, nearly 11 months to the day since James McClean's strike consigned Wales to third-place in the World Cup qualifying group.

While revenge may have been on the mind of fans whose summer plans were left in tatters, Giggs had left his players under no illusion that it was time to move on from that night: "If there there is anything in their minds about (revenge)... get it out of your head.

"It was a long time ago, for me it is a new game and it is my job to make sure we perform as best we can on the night."

No doubt Giggs had envisaged a scenario where his first home game would end in triumphant victory, but even in his wildest dreams would he have struggled to picture Wales completely dominating their opponents, the 4-1 scoreline an incredible, and richly-deserved, result for the team.

Injuries and international retirements had left the Irish in a far weaker position than they were 11 months ago, but on paper they should still have been a stern test for a Welsh team who have always struggled when faced with a more physical threat.

However Wales tore into them from the off, the crispness of their passing and an attacking intent putting the Irish on the back foot.

When the breakthrough came with just six minutes on the clock it was a dream start, Tom Lawrence's superb finish beating Darren Randolph at his near post, and the stadium was in a state of bliss just 12 minutes later when Gareth Bale's incredible curling finish put Wales two goals to the good, leaving the Irish shellshocked.

Shorn of any great creativity, Wales were happy to pick off the Irish attacks and use the likes of Joe Allen and Ethan Ampadu (whose poise, passing and all-round control of the game at just 17 years of age was amazing to see) to counter-attack with the pacey front line relishing their battle with a shaky Irish defence.

When Aaron Ramsey made it 3-0 in the 37th minute the game was effectively over, but Wales continued to threaten. They took until the 55th minute to grab their fourth, right-back Connor Roberts (whose selection over stalwart Chris Gunter came as something of a surprise) striking a gorgeous shot past the despairing Randolph.

The Irish got a goal back when Ramsey's error allowed substitute Shaun Williams to take advantage, but Wales ended the game on the front foot and could have added to their four-goal haul, such was their attacking intent.

This was an exceptional performance from Wales, one that captain Ashley Williams considered one of their best in recent times, and it's hard to argue with that assessment.

With the defence solid (albeit rarely tested), the midfield creative and the attackers hungry and clinical, this was a rich outing for Wales, with Giggs (no doubt relieved that his first game on home soil ended in such a result) after the game commenting that, for these players, the bad news is maintaining that standard.

That was always going to be tough going up against Denmark away, especially since their crisis was resolved and the likes of Christian Eriksen and Kasper Schemichel returned to the fold after an 'image rights' dispute.

A second game in four days certainly seemed to take its toil on Giggs' squad, the only changes seeing Gareth Bale being named captain with Ashley Williams missing out on the squad altogether (his starting place taken by James Chester), David Brooks returning to the bench with Conner Roberts taking his place as a winger and Chris Gunter returning to the fold, and the 2-0 reverse was a result that was in no way against the run of play.

Where Thursday night had been about verve and guile, Sunday was more about containment and Wales did well in that respect, their only mistake of note leaving Eriksen free in the penalty area, and his shot was fired into the bottom left corner to make it 1-0.

A harsh, but predictable, penalty award for handball against Ampadu saw Eriksen double his tally, and his country's lead, and from that point on Wales were looking leggy and Denmark, a team who know how to keep things tight, saw the game out with little fuss.

For Wales, while not the best result in terms of aiming to top this group, it was something of a reality check both for the youngsters and for Giggs himself – if only international football were as easy as Thursday night.

Going forward Wales were shackled well by the Danes, who were wholly unwilling to allow the likes of Bale and Lawrence the chance to run at them, and without this Wales were a little toothless, only managing two shots on target.

It was by no means a comprehensive defeat, yet it was one that Giggs will look at and try to analyse how they can do better in that situation, a vital learning curve.

So, at the halfway point of this new competition, Wales will now look towards next month' s friendly against Spain on October 11 as a chance to develop before resuming Nations League hostilities against Republic of Ireland in Dublin five days later, with their final game in Cardiff against the Danes on November 16.

Finishing top isn't beyond any team in this tightly-poised group, and Wales will feel confident that they can get something in Dublin and take things to a winner-takes-all showdown against the Danes, which would be an incredible boost for the squad and Giggs' embryonic regime.

There's been plenty to praise and plenty to learn from thus far, Sunday a reality check that could prove to be huge in the grand scheme of things – we'll know more about Wales' hopes and ambitions after next month's games.

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